



A-level

HISTORY

Component 1K

**The making of a Superpower: USA,
1865–1975**

7042/1K

Wednesday 24 May 2023

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

MATERIALS

For this paper you must have:

- **an AQA 16-page answer book.**

[Turn over]

INSTRUCTIONS

- **Use black ink or black ball-point pen.**
- **Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The PAPER REFERENCE is 7042/1K.**
- **Answer THREE questions.**
In SECTION A answer Question 01.
In SECTION B answer TWO questions.

INFORMATION

- **The marks for questions are shown in brackets.**
- **The maximum mark for this paper is 80.**
- **You will be marked on your ability to:**
 - **use good English**
 - **organise information clearly**
 - **use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.**

ADVICE

- **You are advised to spend about:**
 - **1 hour on Question 01 from SECTION A**
 - **45 minutes on each of the TWO questions answered from SECTION B.**

DO NOT TURN OVER UNTIL TOLD TO DO SO

SECTION A

Answer Question 01.

EXTRACT A

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EXTRACT B

By 1956 the United States had undermined the Geneva Agreements. All of the subsequent developments during the Diem era arose from the failure of America to uphold those Agreements. The Kennedy administration escalated the conflict with increased military aid, and helicopter units began attacking unarmed villages. Kennedy's views reflected Eisenhower's, which were used to convince the public that the United States had to stay on course in Vietnam.

The massive and sustained bombing of North Vietnam during Johnson's presidency was one of the key elements of Vietnam policy. The election of Richard Nixon brought no

basic change to policy in Vietnam. He attempted to find a way to allow the United States to survive a long war without losing its Asian empire. The American war in Vietnam was an example of imperial aggression, built upon the need to extend and maintain its control in Asia. However, by 1972 the United States was forced to negotiate an agreement to end the war.

Adapted from J Marciano, The American War in Vietnam, 2016

[Turn over]

EXTRACT C

Concern over Vietnam stemmed from the larger fear of the People's Republic of China, as the United States and China came close to war a number of times in the 1950s. 5

Eisenhower inherited the war in French Indochina and passed it on to his successors. Policymakers were worried that if the Communist Vietminh guerrillas won in Vietnam, 10

first all Southeast Asia, then resource-starved Japan, would fall like dominoes. After this, the Pacific Ocean would become a Communist lake. 15

However, presidents like Johnson wanted to break the will of the North Vietnamese without provoking a military response from China. To

minimise the risk, the army avoided bombing close to China's borders and, for the same reason, Johnson denied repeated requests from the military to invade North Vietnam with ground troops. Nixon, offered no specific way to end the war but felt that détente with China would force Hanoi to offer concessions. 20 25

Adapted from Schaller, Scharff and Schulzinger, The United States since 1945, 1996

0 1

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to American policies in Vietnam. [30 marks]

[Turn over]

SECTION B

Answer TWO questions.

0 2

‘The growth of the US economy, from 1865 to 1890, was due to the opening of the West.’

**Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]**

0 3

To what extent did social and ethnic divisions increase in the USA in the years 1890 to 1920? [25 marks]

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‘In the years 1921 to 1941, all presidents were committed to an increased role for the federal government in domestic politics.’

**Assess the validity of this view.
[25 marks]**

END OF QUESTIONS

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