



The United States and the World

History Past Exam papers

Ordinary level

2013

Section 3-Question 6

The United States and the world, 1945-1989

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Picture Y on page 15 is the cover of the U.S. magazine *Life* (16/4/1965). It shows a helicopter crew in action during the Vietnam War. Study it and answer the following questions.

1. Where and when is the incident taking place?
2. What weapon is in use?
3. What harm has the crew suffered?
4. From the evidence of its cover, does *Life* take a positive or negative view of the American war effort? Briefly explain your answer.
5. Why did the US eventually leave Vietnam?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Harry Truman.
2. "Organization Man".
3. Billy Graham.
4. SALT and Star Wars.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How did Joe McCarthy contribute to a "red scare" in the US?
2. What problems did one or more of the following pose for the US: Berlin; Korea; Cuba?
3. What did Muhammad Ali and/or Marilyn Monroe contribute to the rise of the mass media in modern America?
4. In what ways did the life and work of Betty Friedan reflect the changing role of women and the family in modern America?

LIFE

By LARRY BURROWS in VIETNAM

WITH A BRAVE CREW IN A DEADLY FIGHT

Vietcong zero in on
vulnerable U.S. copters



In a U.S. copter
in thick of fight—
a shouting
crew chief,
a dying pilot

APRIL 16 • 1965 • 35¢

Picture Y

2012

Section 3-Question 6

The United States and world, 1945-1989

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

In this edited extract, the American historian, Samuel Eliot Morison, comments on the activities of Senator Joe McCarthy. Read it and answer the questions that follow.

The theory that there was a communist conspiracy would never have been so widely believed but for the cunning of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy.

Opinions of him vary from pure white to deepest black. He was probably simply a plain rogue who wanted power to make presidents and officials jump while he cracked the whip.

In the opinion of many, he aimed at becoming president himself. He was cruel and greedy and did nothing for the people of his native state. He was one of the biggest liars in our history.

Source: S.E.Morison, *The Oxford History of the American People*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, 1965.

1. According to the author, why was it widely believed that there was a communist conspiracy against the US?
2. How widely did opinions about McCarthy vary?
3. What is the author's opinion of McCarthy?
4. In the opinion of many, what was McCarthy's aim?
5. How did Soviet-US relations after 1945 help McCarthy to create a "red scare"?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. The multinational corporation, 1945-1968.
2. Urban poverty, drugs and violence.
3. Marilyn Monroe.
4. Mohammad Ali.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. How did President Harry Truman conduct foreign affairs between 1945 and 1953?
2. What problems did President Johnson encounter in dealing with Vietnam?
3. What type of person was the "Organization Man" and how did he reflect American values?
4. In what ways did Billy Graham represent religion in modern American culture?

2011

Section 3-Question 6

The United States and world, 1945-1989

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This is an extract from Lyndon Johnson's final State of the Union Address as President, 1969. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

I regret more than any of you know that it has not been possible to restore peace to South Vietnam. The prospects, I think, for peace are better today than at any time since North Vietnam began its invasion with its regular forces more than 4 years ago.

The free nations of Asia now know what they were not sure of at that time: that America cares about their freedom, and it also cares about America's own vital interests in Asia and throughout the Pacific. The North Vietnamese know that they cannot achieve their aggressive purposes by force. There may be hard fighting before a settlement is reached; but, I can assure you, it will yield no victory to the Communist cause.

I cannot speak to you tonight about Vietnam without paying a very personal tribute to the men who have carried the battle out there for all of us. I have been honored to be their Commander in Chief. The Nation owes them its total support while the battle continues -- and its enduring gratitude when their service is done.

1. How does Johnson now rate the prospects for peace in South Vietnam?
2. What do the free nations of Asia now know about America?
3. What have the North Vietnamese learned from the progress of the war so far?
4. What two things does the USA owe to its soldiers in Vietnam?
5. Who succeeded Johnson as President of the United States?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Joe McCarthy and the "red scare".
2. The Cuban Missile Crisis.
3. Détente, SALT and Star Wars.
4. Norman Mailer.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What did Harry Truman achieve as President of the United States?
2. How was it possible for the US to achieve a Moon landing?
3. What did Marilyn Monroe and/or Muhammad Ali contribute to American culture?
4. What did Billy Graham contribute to religious practice in the US?

2007

Section 3-Question 6

The United States and the world, 1945-1989

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

This extract is taken from a letter written by Martin Luther King while in prison. In it he answers those who declare that black people should be patient in their wait for civil rights. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

But when you have seen vicious mobs lynch your mother and father at will and drown your sisters and brothers at whim; when you have seen hate-filled policemen curse, kick and even kill your black brothers and sisters; when you have seen the vast majority of your twenty million Negro brothers smothering in an air-tight cage of poverty in the midst of an affluent society; when you are harried by day and haunted by night by the fact that you are a Negro, living constantly at a tip-toe stance - then you will understand why we find it difficult to wait.

1. Which two groups does King blame for violence against blacks?
2. How many black people live in poverty?
3. What do you think the speaker meant when he said that black Americans were "living at a tip-toe stance"?
4. Give one reason why the black community finds it difficult to wait for its civil rights.
5. How did Martin Luther King meet his death in 1968?

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. Urban poverty, drugs and crime.
2. The United States and Cuba.
3. Marilyn Monroe.
4. The "Organisation Man".

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. What part did President Truman play in the history of the United States?
2. How did Senator Joe McCarthy influence the direction of foreign policy in the United States?
3. What problems did President Johnson encounter in dealing with Vietnam?
4. How was it possible for the United States to achieve the moon landing in 1969?

2006

Section 3-Question 6

The United States and the world, 1945-1989

A (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Picture Z **on page 15** shows a notice board in front of a government housing project in the United States. Study it and answer the questions which follow.

1. In which part of the United States (northern or southern) was this notice board more likely to have been? Give a reason for your answer.
2. Which of the following words best describes the demand of the white community as shown on the notice board: segregation; desegregation; white supremacy; black supremacy? Give a reason for your answer.
3. Give one reason put forward by white Americans why they did not want black Americans living in their communities.
4. Write one sentence of fact about Martin Luther King.

B (30 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 10 minutes

Write a short paragraph on **one** of the following:

1. The American multinational corporation.
2. Betty Friedan and the changing role of women.
3. Youth culture in modern America.
4. The Moon landing, 1969.

C (40 marks)

Recommended maximum time: 15 minutes

Answer **one** of the following:

1. Why was the Montgomery bus boycott (1956) so important to the story of the civil rights movement?
2. What policies did President Johnson follow in relation to the war in Vietnam?
3. How important were Marilyn Monroe and/or Muhammad Ali in modern American culture?
4. How and why did Billy Graham become such a popular religious leader in the United States?

Z



