

## A-level HISTORY

Component 1K The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975

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Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

### 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**.

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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Extract A**

After 1945, American society experienced conflict and fragmentation and Americans continued to be divided by issues such as class. Although many traditional social patterns persisted, a new challenge was emerging to affect the social order. Most Americans were slow to recognise the extent of poverty in the United States during the post-1945 period. Public awareness of the nation's extensive poverty grew in the early 1960s, stimulated by Kennedy's commitment to an anti-poverty programme. However, for all its good intentions, Johnson's Great Society from 1964 did little for the central cities and their inhabitants. The depressed rural areas received even less help from Washington. Yet there were some gains. By the end of the 1960s, the anti-poverty programmes had helped many poor people, young Americans, and the elderly. Yet, as the 1970s unfolded, Americans had become less confident of their ability to solve national problems such as poverty. The reality of inequality was apparent everywhere.

Adapted from D Grantham, *Recent America*, 1998**Extract B**

On the domestic front, all seemed well in the years following the Second World War. For many, the American Dream seemed attainable. Middle-class and many working-class white families flocked to the growing suburbs. By 1960, almost fifty million households owned TV sets, and programmes, such as 'Father Knows Best', offered optimistic images of suburban togetherness. Church membership soared as newcomers to suburbia sought friendship and social ties. In a development of truly historic proportions, the 1950s also brought a major assault on the South's established system of segregation, with the 1957 Civil Rights Act heralding further victories ahead. The 1960s also saw anti-poverty initiatives being led by local community groups and poverty rates declined, especially in black communities. However, as the Vietnam War dragged on, home-front protests erupted. Nixon was elected due to the mounting revulsion against campus protests, urban riots and the youth culture. In spite of all the turmoil and violence, the following period saw the greatest wave of progressive reform since the New Deal.

Adapted from P Boyer, *American History*, 2012

**Extract C**

Historians have been critical of the post-Second World War period. McCarthyism roamed the land, minorities continued to suffer from discrimination, and some women disliked the 'full-time mother' stereotype that reigned. America had known rebellious youth in the 1950s. However, the 1960s and 1970s was a period of stormy dissent, coming largely from the upper-middle-class young people; it shook the country to its core. 5  
Critics blamed this left-wing rebellion on prosperity, the decline in religion and lack of parental discipline. Others saw it as a praiseworthy crusade, striking out against repressive and irrational laws and heralding a new era of peace and love. The movements preceded serious American involvement in the Vietnam War, a conflict that fuelled the rebellion and propelled it into a force that significantly altered American 10  
culture. Protests that began under Johnson continued under Nixon. Indeed, they flourished. All over the country and in almost all walks of life one could witness feminism, gay and lesbian rights, free sex, illegal drugs, and a concern for racial minorities.

Adapted from T Reeves, *Twentieth Century America*, 2000

0 1

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to changes in American society in the years 1945 to 1975.

[30 marks]

**Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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- 0 2** To what extent was there effective cooperation between President and Congress in the years 1865 to 1890? **[25 marks]**
- 0 3** 'Populism had significant influence on national politics in the years 1890 to 1912.'  
Assess the validity of this view of Populism. **[25 marks]**
- 0 4** In the years 1920 to 1945, to what extent was FD Roosevelt's approach to international relations different from that of his Republican predecessors? **[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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