

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Subsidiary Examination



HISTORY
Unit 1

HS1L

**Alternative L: United States' Foreign Policy,
1890–1991**

Monday 2 June 2008 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The *Examining Body* for this paper is AQA. The *Paper Reference* is HS1L.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 25 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

1 Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A Following the rejection of the Treaty of Versailles, the USA refused to take part in the League of Nations. This was a decision that was popular amongst the American public. President Harding announced that the USA would concentrate on internal affairs, in effect, a retreat from the world's stage. This did not alter the
5 fact that on many occasions the USA did in fact take part in world events in the 1920s and 1930s.

Adapted from M B NORTON, *A People and a Nation*, 1994

Source B The British and President Truman were told that a land invasion could prove disastrous. So, to speed up the end of the war and save countless American battle casualties that would result from an invasion of Japan, President Truman authorised the use of the newly developed atomic bomb. On 6 August 1945 the
5 United States of America dropped a single atom bomb, the first used in the war. This bomb killed or injured an estimated 130 000 people.

Adapted from I L GORDON, *Review Text in American History*, 1984

Source C

A brief text extract adapted from W M CHAFE, *The Unfinished Solution*, 1991, discussing the lack of justification for, both morally and militarily, dropping the atomic bomb on Japan. Not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints.

- (a) Use **Source A** and your own knowledge.

Explain briefly the importance of ‘a retreat from the world’s stage’ (line 4) in the context of US foreign policy in the years 1920 to 1923. *(3 marks)*

- (b) Use **Sources B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

Explain how the views expressed in **Source C** challenge those in **Source B** about the use of the atomic bomb. *(7 marks)*

- (c) Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

Explain the importance of American Presidents, in relation to other factors, in explaining the direction of US foreign policy in the years 1920 to 1945. *(15 marks)*

Turn over for the next question

EITHER

2 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

Most Americans applauded expansionism as a traditional feature of their nation's history. But many became uneasy when expansionism gave way to imperialism.

Adapted from M B NORTON, *A People and a Nation*, 1994

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by 'expansionism' in the context of US foreign policy in the years 1898 to 1905. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why President Wilson sent troops into Mexico in 1916. (7 marks)
- (c) 'In the years 1890 to 1919 imperial rivalry was the most important factor in shaping US foreign policy.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (15 marks)

OR

3 Read the following source and then answer the questions which follow.

The collapse of Soviet communism and the events of 1989 made containment redundant and created new opportunities for the West.

Adapted from A MCGREW (ed), *Empire*, 1994

- (a) Explain briefly what is meant by 'the collapse of Soviet communism' in the context of relations with the West in 1989. (3 marks)
- (b) Explain why President George H W Bush was worried about the disintegration of the Soviet Union in 1991. (7 marks)
- (c) 'The USA was successful in its opposition to the expansion of communism in the years 1945 to 1991.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this opinion. (15 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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Source C: W M CHAFE, *The Unfinished Journey*, OUP, 1991. By permission of Oxford University Press, Inc.

Question 2: M B NORTON, *A People and a Nation*. © 1994 by Houghton Mifflin Company

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