



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
January 2009

History

HIS2Q

Unit 2Q The USA and Vietnam, 1961–1975

Friday 16 January 2009 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 HIS2Q.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- 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 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 Adapted from the comments of President Johnson to his advisor, McGeorge Bundy, 27 May 1964

It just worries the hell out of me. I just don't see what we can ever hope to get out of Vietnam with, once we're committed. I believe that the Chinese Communists are coming into it. I don't think that we can fight them ten thousand miles away from home. I don't think it's worth fighting for and I don't think that we can get
5 out. It's just the biggest damned mess that I ever saw.

Source B Adapted from the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution, August 1964

The United States is assisting the peoples of Southeast Asia to protect their freedom and has no territorial or political ambitions in that area. The Congress approves and supports the determination of the President, as Commander-in-Chief, to take all necessary measures to repel any armed attack against the forces of the
5 United States and to prevent further aggression. The United States is therefore prepared, as the President determines, to take all necessary steps, including the use of armed force, to assist any member state of the Southeast Asia Collective Defense Treaty.

Source C The 1964 presidential election made Johnson cautious about escalation. He set up a Working Group to suggest policy options. This group emphasised that escalation was necessary due to the weak Saigon government. It favoured heavier bombing, to be halted only if North Vietnam negotiated. Although Johnson is blamed for the
5 escalation, most of those on the Working Group were behind him. Johnson was Commander-in-Chief and his military and civilian experts were pushing for escalation. Johnson took the Working Group's recommendations seriously.

Adapted from V SANDERS, *The USA and Vietnam 1945–1975*, 1998

(a) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to President Johnson's willingness to commit the USA to the use of military force in Vietnam. (12 marks)

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

How important was President Johnson in bringing about an escalation of the war in Vietnam in the years 1964 to 1968? (24 marks)

EITHER

- 2 (a) Explain why President Kennedy believed that keeping South Vietnam free from Communism was essential for the protection of the USA's national interests. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'President Kennedy was not a supporter of US involvement in the war in Vietnam.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR

- 3 (a) Explain why President Nixon introduced the policy of 'Vietnamisation' in 1969. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'It was military defeat that forced the Americans to withdraw from Vietnam.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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