



A-level HISTORY

The Making of a Superpower: USA 1865–1975

Paper 1K

ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER

2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-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 **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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.
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Section AAnswer Question 01

Extract A

Eisenhower's stock has risen markedly in recent years. No longer dismissed as an intellectual lightweight and political babe-in-the-woods, he is generally recognised as a self-assured and prudent leader who understood politics and, having seen war at first hand, appreciated the limits of military power. Despite frequent crises and the recurrent threat of war, he managed to keep the peace during his time in office. He worked out with the European allies and the Soviet Union the basis for a viable if by no means perfect settlement in Europe; Berlin, of course, the exception, the foundation for what the historian John Lewis Gaddis has called the "Long Peace". He avoided open-ended military commitments and took the first hesitant steps toward nuclear arms limitations. Even during the post-*Sputnik* hysteria, he remained calm and kept the military budget under some semblance of control.

G. Herring, **From Colony to Superpower: US Foreign Relations Since 1776**, 2008

Extract B

President Eisenhower was determined that Americans should enjoy the fruits of their freedom and he set out to wean the nation from its addiction to crisis. Americans, he believed, would only fully secure the blessings of their liberty if allowed to pursue it with tranquillity. More than any man of his era, Eisenhower gave Americans that chance. He won the future of the West on the battlefields of Europe and then nurtured it as president, patiently making progress, steadfastly confronting the great menace of his era, Soviet Communism, without resort to global confrontation. Eisenhower was the first American president to have access to atomic weapons and not use them. He refrained when they might have ended the Korean War, when they might have saved the French garrison at Dien Bien Phu, when they might have repelled Chinese aggression against Taiwan or Soviet threats to Berlin. We can only wonder how humanity's course would have been different had Eisenhower acceded to those who believed America would have been best served by use of the weapons under his control.

J. Newton, Eisenhower: **The White House Years**, 2012

Extract C

While some blamed his bombastic and self-righteous secretary of state for the errors made, Eisenhower as much as Dulles, ignored the opportunities offered, starting with the death of Stalin and continuing into Khrushchev's ascendancy. He neglected to develop a Middle East policy that took account of what had changed after Britain had left that troubled scene and was as ideological in misunderstanding Communist China as those who prattled on about how the Democrats lost China. He never understood the Europe he pretended to know and failed utterly to comprehend how his policies were influencing both Adenauer and De Gaulle.

As a man who knew war and detested it, he kept the country at peace and this was his signal achievement, but it was secured at a heavy price: the creation of the illusion that the United States could be the world's policeman, keeping totalitarian forces at bay everywhere.

S Graubard, **The Presidents**, 2009

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the achievements of Dwight Eisenhower.

[30 marks]

Section BAnswer **two** questions

0 2

‘Between the end of the Civil War and 1890, the position of African Americans in the United States significantly improved.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**0 3**

‘The Republican Party dominated American politics in the years 1868 to 1912 because it was the party of big business.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**0 4**

‘The policies of US presidents had very little impact on the boom, bust and recovery of the American economy in the years 1920 to 1945.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]**END OF QUESTIONS**

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Question 1 Extract C: The Presidents: The Transformation of the American Presidency from Theodore Roosevelt to Barack Obama by Stephen Graubard, Penguin Books, 2009. Copyright © Stephen Graubard, 2005. Reproduced by permission of Penguin Books Ltd.

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