

General Certificate of Education
June 2007
Advanced Level Examination



HISTORY
Unit 6W
Alternative L: The USA and Vietnam, 1963–1973

HS6L

Friday 22 June 2007 9.00 am to 10.30 am

For this paper you must have:

- a 12-page answer book.

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use blue or black ink or 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 HS6L.
- Answer **all** questions.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 40.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- 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 part (c).

Answer **all** questions.

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

Source A The first American protests against the War took place in 1963, linked to events surrounding the Diem government. US government officials paid close attention to the anti-war movement. Previously in 1961, Kennedy had agreed to a limited partnership with Diem but he thought further negotiations would tarnish US credibility. It meant US aid would continue despite Kennedy's personal reservations. President Kennedy's own brutal death in November 1963 made it impossible to know how he would have dealt with the South Vietnamese leaders who succeeded Diem. Some Kennedy aides later argued that his persistent doubts about the American course in Vietnam would have led him, if he had been re-elected in 1964, to have withdrawn the US from the conflict and avoided the mass escalation that occurred in 1965.

Adapted from P LOWE, *The Vietnam War*, 1998

Source B General Westmoreland claimed the Tet Offensive as a military victory and he was right. The Vietcong were especially hard hit. They would never truly recover from the battle. Publicly proclaiming victory in late February 1968, Westmoreland said 'the enemy was on the ropes'. It would soon be much easier to 'clear and hold', he predicted. They were winning the war. But the American people were fed up. After all these years the Americans asked, why was the US Embassy in Saigon a battle ground? A disgusted Walter Cronkite denounced Johnson's policy and stated plainly that 'US policy will not win the war'.

Adapted from TP MAGA, *Vietnam*, 2000

Source C A number of scandals back home in America contributed to the rising tide of opinion against the war. Such a scandal was centred around the so called Pentagon Papers. They revealed a lack of precise war aims in Vietnam, confusion in policy, and the failure to inform the public of what was really happening. Newspaper coverage of the Pentagon Papers in 1971 fuelled public disapproval of the government's handling of the war.

Adapted from A POLLOCK, *Vietnam: Conflict and Change in Indochina*, 1997

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

Assess the validity of the view in **Source B** about the attitude of the US military towards the Vietnam War in 1968. *(10 marks)*

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

How useful is **Source A** as evidence of President Kennedy's views on the war in Vietnam? *(10 marks)*

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

'In 1963 there was mass public support for US policies in Vietnam; by 1973 this had been completely lost. The principal cause for this was the impact of the Tet Offensive on American public opinion.'
Assess the validity of this view. *(20 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source A: P LOWE, *The Vietnam War*, Macmillan, 1998. Reproduced with permission of Palgrave Macmillan.

Source C: Reproduced by permission of Oxford University Press Australia, from *Vietnam: Conflict and Change in Indochina* by Alan Pollock. © Oxford University Press, www.oup.com.au/.

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