



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2010

History

HIS2Q

Unit 2Q The USA and Vietnam, 1961–1975

Thursday 10 June 2010 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.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- 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.

HIS2Q

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

Question 1

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

Source A Nixon believed that demonstrations of American power would overcome Saigon's worries about American troop withdrawals. He therefore escalated the air offensive in January 1970, heavily bombing Cambodia. Nixon desperately needed to do something effective in order to get an acceptable peace. 30 000 American and South Vietnamese troops were moved into Cambodia. The offensive achieved the destruction of vast quantities of communist materials and this meant it was nearly two years before Hanoi launched another offensive in South Vietnam. Nixon's critics said it had widened the war and many questioned whether the offensive had won time for America or just strengthened Hanoi.

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

Source B Cambodia was misrepresented as a separate 'war'. It was not any such thing. The enemy was the same as in Vietnam. America contributed to the disaster in Cambodia, not because it did too much but because it did too little. Nixon's opponents succeeded in imposing on the war in Cambodia the restrictions they had failed to inflict on the war in South Vietnam. The success of Nixon's opponents over Cambodia doomed that country and, in time, South Vietnam as well. The United States' withdrawal from Cambodia strengthened North Vietnam's diplomatic position.

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Adapted from H KISSINGER, *Ending the Vietnam War*, 2003

Source C Adapted from the Vietnam Workers' Party Politburo directive, 31 March 1975

Strategically and militarily, we now possess overwhelmingly superior strength and the enemy is on the verge of disintegration. The United States appears virtually powerless, and even reinforcements cannot reverse the enemy's situation. The revolutionary war in the South has not only entered the stage of being a great leap forward but conditions are ready for launching a general offensive and uprising in Saigon. From this moment, the final strategically decisive battle of our army and the people has begun; its aim is to complete the people's national democratic revolution in the South and bring peace and the reunification of the nation.

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0 1 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 the United States' attack on Cambodia in 1970. (12 marks)

0 2 Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far was America's final withdrawal from Vietnam in 1975 the result of its military mistakes? (24 marks)

EITHER**Question 2**

0	3
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 Explain why there was a leadership crisis in South Vietnam in the years 1963 to 1964.
(12 marks)

0	4
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 'The successes of the Vietcong in the years 1965 to 1968 were due to the effectiveness of its military tactics.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. (24 marks)

OR**Question 3**

0	5
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 Explain why the Gulf of Tonkin Resolution was adopted by the USA in August 1964.
(12 marks)

0	6
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 'The Tet Offensive of 1968 was an overwhelming success for the North Vietnamese.'
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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Question 1 Source A: Adapted from V SANDERS, *The USA and Vietnam, 1945–1975*, Hodder, 1998.

Question 1 Source C: Reproduced from *The Vietnam War*, by Kevin Ruane by kind permission of Manchester University Press.

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