



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2011

## History

## HIS2Q

Unit 2Q The USA and Vietnam, 1961–1975

Thursday 20 January 2011 9.00 am to 10.30 am

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 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.

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

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### Question 1

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

**Source A** *Time* magazine was strongly supportive of the war. Overall, the reporting in newspapers and magazines enthusiastically backed the war. Relatively few Americans relied on television for their knowledge of the war. What Americans saw on television was more likely to arouse patriotism rather than dissent. *CBS\* Reports* 5 on the August 1965 bombing of North Vietnam described American jets as giving the 'Communist Vietnamese their heaviest clobbering of the war'. An NBC\* story in February 1966 featured Colonel Hal Moore as the 'hero of the Battle of Ia Drang Valley in November 1965' and as a 'leader of brave men'.  
\*CBS and NBC are American television networks

Adapted from GARY R HESS, *Vietnam: Explaining America's Lost War*, 2009

**Source B** Adapted from Richard Nixon's recollections of the years 1965–1968, published in 1978

The American news media had come to dominate domestic opinion about the war's purpose and meaning. In each night's TV news and each morning's papers the war was reported battle by battle, but little or no sense of the underlying purpose was conveyed. Television showed the terrible human suffering and sacrifice of war. The 5 result was a serious demoralisation of the home front, raising the question whether America would ever again be able to fight an enemy abroad with unity and strength of purpose at home.

**Source C** In April 1965, twenty five thousand demonstrators, roughly equivalent to the number of US troops then in South Vietnam, gathered in Washington DC for the first national protest. By 1969, at least two million Americans were drawn into public protest. Presidents Johnson and Nixon publicly claimed that the anti-war movement had no 5 impact on their policies or their morale. However, anti-war activities were a serious focus of concern. In late 1966, as the military urged Johnson to bomb Hanoi and Haiphong, he wondered aloud how long it would take 'five hundred thousand angry Americans to climb that White House wall and lynch their president if he did anything like that'.

Adapted from CHRISTIAN G APPY, *Vietnam*, 2003

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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 media and the war in Vietnam. (12 marks)

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

How important was public opinion in the years 1965 to 1968 to putting President Johnson under pressure to withdraw US forces from Vietnam? (24 marks)

**EITHER****Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why the Strategic Hamlets programme was implemented. *(12 marks)*

**0 4** 'Kennedy decided to increase US involvement in Vietnam because the south was unable to protect itself.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR****Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why President Nixon extended the war into Cambodia in 1970. *(12 marks)*

**0 6** 'Although the peace negotiations began in 1971, it was the USA that prevented a final end to the conflict being reached until 1975.'  
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:** GARY R HESS, *Vietnam: Explaining America's Lost War*, 2009.

**Question 1 Source B:** RICHARD NIXON, *Memoirs*, Grand Central Publishing, 1978.

**Question 1 Source C:** From *Vietnam* by CHRISTIAN G APPY, published by Ebury, 2003. Used by permission of The Random House Group Ltd.

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