



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2011

## History

## HIS2Q

Unit 2Q The USA and Vietnam, 1961–1975

Thursday 19 May 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** The Communists worked hard to win over the peasantry, offering them a fairer distribution of land. Although they were effective at winning the hearts and minds of the peasantry, they were ruthless when necessary. During the Tet Offensive, the Vietcong (VC) dragged 'unfriendly' people out of their houses in Hue and shot them, 5 clubbed them to death or buried them alive. 3000 bodies were later found in the river or jungle. A careful mixture of ruthlessness and good behaviour gained the VC the reluctant support of the peasants which was vital in guerrilla warfare.

Adapted from V SANDERS, *The USA and Vietnam, 1945–75*, 1998

**Source B** The Vietcong (VC) and the National Liberation Front (NLF) combined reform with nationalism and promised an end to the 'American puppet' South Vietnamese government. The communist movement was deeply entrenched in rural South Vietnam. By the time that the Americans began entering areas in large numbers, 5 the vast majority of the villagers had joined the NLF. In an effort to address the grievances that had contributed to the appeal of the NLF and the VC, the Saigon government introduced new reforms, but these provided fewer benefits to villagers than the NLF had delivered in areas under its control.

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

**Source C** In mid-1964, North Vietnamese troops were mobilised for deployment in the south. In order to supply the force with hundreds of tons of weapons, ammunition, food and other necessities, Hanoi set in motion a vast and ambitious scheme to turn the Ho Chi Minh Trail into a modern logistical system. This continued until 1975. By 1967, 5 North Vietnamese troops were pouring into South Vietnam at the rate of twenty thousand or more a month. As General Giap commented: 'The most correct path to be pursued by the people to liberate themselves is revolutionary war. Only by revolutionary violence can the masses defeat aggressive imperialism'.

Adapted from S KARNOW, *Vietnam*, 1983

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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 Vietcong in South Vietnam. (12 marks)

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

How important was North Vietnamese logistical support to the military struggle against the USA and the South Vietnamese government? (24 marks)

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**EITHER****Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why President Kennedy increased the number of US military advisers in South Vietnam in 1961. *(12 marks)*

**0 4** 'President Kennedy was determined not to withdraw from South Vietnam.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR****Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why the Vietnam War led to President Johnson's decision not to seek re-election in 1968. *(12 marks)*

**0 6** 'Pressure from anti-war protesters from 1970 persuaded President Nixon to withdraw from South 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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