



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2012

History

HIS2Q

Unit 2Q The USA and Vietnam, 1961 – 1975

Tuesday 22 May 2012 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

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.
Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.
- 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.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

Question 1

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

Source A Adapted from comments made by Tran Van Tra, a senior Communist general, in 1982

During the Tet Offensive of 1968, we did not correctly evaluate the exact balance of forces between ourselves and the enemy. We did not fully realise that the enemy had considerable strength and that our own was limited. We had set ourselves objectives that were beyond our actual strength. As a result, we suffered large
5 losses in equipment and manpower, which clearly weakened us. Not only were we unable to hold on to the gains we had made up to 1968, we also had to overcome many problems in 1969 and 1970 so that the struggle could continue.

Source B Adapted from the Communist Party's assessment of the Tet Offensive, published in March 1968

We have recorded great victories in all fields. We have inflicted on the enemy heavier losses than he has suffered in any previous period. We attacked all US and South Vietnamese centres of importance and exerted our control for a definite period. We liberated areas of the countryside containing about 1.5 million
5 inhabitants. However, we have not been able to annihilate many of the enemy's forces. We failed to create a military revolt in which South Vietnamese troops would rise and return to the people's side. All these have limited our successes.

Source C

Source C, an extract from Walter Cronkite's media report on the Tet Offensive, from February 1968, is not reproduced here due to third-party copyright constraints. The full copy of this paper can be obtained from AQA Publications.

Question 1 continued

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 results of the Tet Offensive for North Vietnam. *(12 marks)*

and

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

How far was the Tet Offensive a defeat for the USA? *(24 marks)*

EITHER

Question 2

0 3 Explain why the Vietcong was supported in South Vietnam in the years 1964 to 1968. *(12 marks)*

and

0 4 'The USA's involvement in Vietnam escalated in the years 1965 to 1968 because President Johnson was personally committed to achieving victory.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR

Question 3

0 5 Explain why the Watergate Affair contributed to the withdrawal of US forces from South Vietnam. *(12 marks)*

and

0 6 'In the years 1969 to 1973, President Nixon's policies showed that he was committed to protecting 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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Question 1 Source A: From S KARNOW, *Vietnam: A History*, Century Hutchinson, 1983

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