

AS HISTORY

The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975

Component 1K From Civil War to World War, 1865–1920

Wednesday 18 May 2016 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/1K.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section A

 Answer Question 01.

Extract A

The leading theorist of expansionism was a US naval officer, Captain Alfred T Mahan. In his classic work, 'The Influence of Sea Power upon History, 1660–1783' (1890), Mahan argued that sea power was the foundation of national greatness. In order to be successful in the worldwide struggle for commerce, the United States must embark upon a programme of mercantilist imperialism. That meant not only the rebuilding of the merchant marine and of a powerful navy to protect it, but also the acquisition of naval bases and overseas colonies, especially in the Caribbean and the Pacific. Mahan's ideas had a considerable impact abroad, especially in Great Britain and Germany. Within the United States they were soon taken up by such influential politicians as Henry Cabot Lodge, Albert J Beveridge, and Theodore Roosevelt.

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Adapted from Maldwyn A Jones, *The Limits of Liberty: American History, 1607–1992*, 1995

Extract B

The USA's policy of isolationism could not last, for the conditions which made it possible were breaking down from the third quarter of the nineteenth century, under the impact of the swift processes of industrialisation and scientific development. These were revolutionising globally, the speed of communication and developing an era of mass communication. The isolationism of American diplomacy began to react to these fundamental forces.

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The roots of American Imperialism were varied. One was the sheer strength of industrial America and its desire for new markets. Another was the application of Social Darwinism and that the survival of the fittest meant the superiority of the Anglo-Saxon race of which the USA was part.

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Adapted from H C Allen, *A Concise History of the USA*, 1968

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of the reasons for American 'imperialism' in the years 1890 to 1914?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0 2 'Divisions within the Democratic Party enabled the Republican Party to dominate US politics in the years 1896 to 1912.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3 'The rapid growth of the US economy in the years 1865 to 1890 was due to the expansion of the railroads.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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