

GCE
AS and A Level

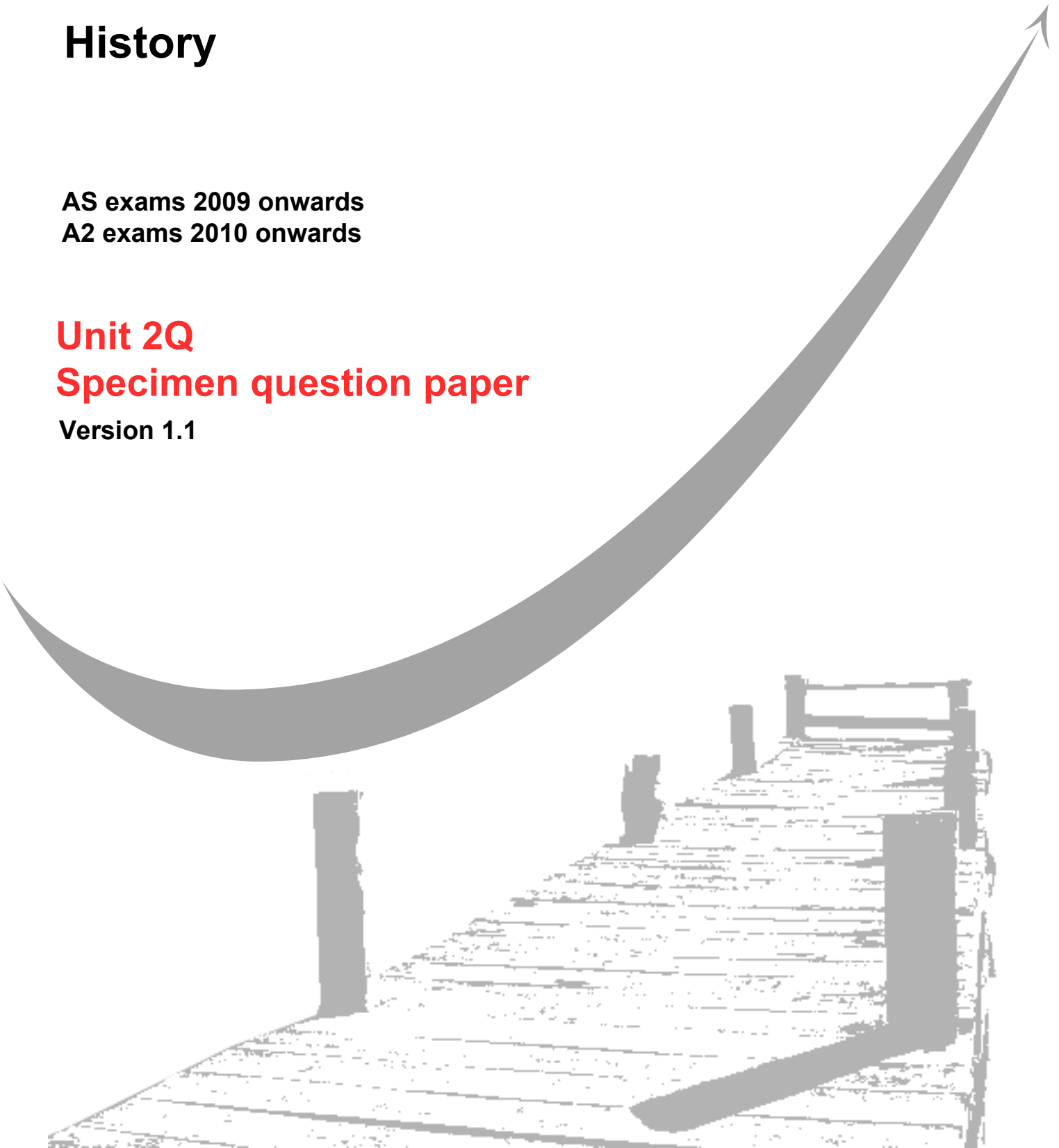
History

AS exams 2009 onwards
A2 exams 2010 onwards

Unit 2Q

Specimen question paper

Version 1.1



HISTORY
Unit 2
The USA and Vietnam, 1961–1975

HIS2Q

<DAY> <TIME>

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 maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to 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.

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

Source A An assessment of the 1968 Tet Offensive by Robert McNamara, the US secretary for defence.

I think that South Vietnam is such a complex situation that one must look at the pluses and the minuses. I don't mean to say that there haven't been any minuses in South Vietnam in this offensive of the last few days. I think there have been – but there have been many, many more pluses. The North Vietnamese and the Vietcong have not
5 achieved either of their two major objectives. These were to force a general uprising and to force American troops out of the north of South Vietnam.

Source B The views of Robert F. Kennedy, speaking out about the Tet Offensive on American television in 1968.

We must first of all get rid of the illusion that the events of the past two weeks represent some sort of victory. That is not so. It is said that the Vietcong will not be able to hold the cities. This is probably true. But the Vietcong have demonstrated, despite all our reports on the progress of government strength in the South and enemy weakness, that
5 500 000 American soldiers, with 700 000 Vietnamese allies, are unable to stop a single city from being attacked – by an enemy whose total strength is only 250 000.

Source C An extract from a book about the USA's lack of support in Vietnam and the need to win the battle 'for the hearts and minds' of the South Vietnamese.

This source cannot be reproduced electronically for copyright reasons. Please e-mail history@aqg.org.uk and supply a postal address to receive a printed version, clearly stating **HIS2Q**.

(a) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source A** differ from those in **Source B** in relation to the success of the 1968 Tet Offensive. (12 marks)

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

How important was the failure to gain popular support in South Vietnam in the eventual defeat of the USA in the Vietnam War? (24 marks)

EITHER 2

- (a) Explain why the USA became involved in the defence of South Vietnam in the years 1961 to 1964. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘The escalation of the Vietnam War between 1964 and 1968 was due to the optimistic belief that victory was just around the corner.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR 3

- (a) Explain why, after the opening of the Paris peace talks in 1965, the Vietnam War did not come to an end until 1975. *(12 marks)*
- (b) ‘The reason why the Vietnam war lasted so long after 1968 was the deliberate deception of the American people by Nixon and Kissinger.’
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COPYRIGHT-HOLDERS AND PUBLISHERS

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.

Question 1 Source B: J McMAHON, *Major Problems in the History of the Vietnam War*, © 1990 by Houghton Mifflin Company.

Copyright © 2007 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.