

## A-level HISTORY

Component 1K The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975

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Time allowed: 2 hours 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 7042/1K.
- Answer **three** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
  - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

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**Section A**

 Answer Question 01.
 

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**Extract A**

The 1920s were a new era; women now voted; some flew aeroplanes. A new world of consumption and self-indulgence appeared. Most Americans worked fewer hours and took home more money. They ate better and lived longer. They entered a period of economic boom which saw leisure activities and entertainment become big business. The Great Depression brought new possibilities. Americans continued to move from the country to the city, lured by the prospect of greater opportunity. The consumer culture of the 1920s continued its conquest of America throughout the 1930s, even in the face of massive unemployment and grinding poverty. Everyone bought and listened to radios, which continued to change tastes and habits. New products and brands were advertised and those with money continued to spend. The Great Depression brought new economic opportunities and many Americans picked up bargains on the stock market, reaping fortunes later on. Indeed, by 1940, the Depression and New Deals had created positive changes even in the lives of African-Americans.

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Adapted from ME Parish, *Anxious Decades: America in Prosperity and Depression, 1920–1941*, 1994

**Extract B**

The 1920s was a turbulent decade. Protests against a flood of immigrants led to turbulent times. In 1920, thousands of immigrants were rounded up and held in isolation for long periods of time. Through the twenties and thirties, it was clear that a class war was being waged. The Ku Klux Klan had been revived in the 1920s and it spread into the North during the decade. Black unity could not make much headway against the powerful white supremacy current in the post-war decades. Most black people were ignored during the 1930s and segregation and discrimination remained firmly in place. There was some truth to the prosperity of the Roaring Twenties but most wealth was concentrated at the top. America was divided by the 'haves' and the 'have nots'. Whilst women had won the vote, political activity was mainly confined to the middle class and upper class. There was no great feminist movement in this period.

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Adapted from H Zinn, *The Twentieth Century*, 2003

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**0 1**

Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to American society in the 1920s and 1930s.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2** 'The years 1865 to 1896 were a time of significant progress for former slaves in America's southern states.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

**0 3** To what extent was Wilson's New Freedom a continuation of Theodore Roosevelt's reforms?

[25 marks]

**0 4** 'In the years 1945 to 1968, the growth of the US economy was entirely due to an increase in consumer demand.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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