



Oxford Cambridge and RSA

Thursday 26 May 2022 – Morning

A Level History A

Y319/01 Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes



You must have:

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer the question in Section A and **any two** questions in Section B.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (*).
- This document has **4** pages.

ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

SECTION A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the impact of the 'Gilded Age' on the position of women. [30]

Passage A

By the turn of the century, opportunities for working-class women expanded as a result of the growth of manufacturing industry. These changes largely benefited unmarried women between 1870 and 1900. Whereas in 1870 few unmarried women worked outside the home, by 1900 the number of women workers had tripled. Young, unmarried women left domestic service for more lucrative work in industries that were expanding in most major cities across America. By the 1890s, unmarried women with a high-school education could graduate from the factory floor to the clean, safe and more salubrious offices of business enterprises. The invention and production of the typewriter and telephone transformed this area of work, previously dominated by men. Here, young, female, white collar, clerical workers could earn more and gain some status. This expanding trend continued, as did the increasing number of unmarried women employed in the shops and stores that began to proliferate in the latter years of the nineteenth century. There was a considerable growth in the number of women working as teachers, secretaries, librarians and telephone operators. There was, however, no career pathway for women in white collar work – men remained the managers. Almost certainly, the expectation that these young women would at some point marry and leave the workforce determined their future prospects.

Adapted from: D. Paterson, Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992, published in 2009.

Passage B

Industrialisation, especially allied with the influx of cheap immigrant labour, accentuated inequality and led to harsh conditions and sexual exploitation. In industry, women were still concentrated in textiles and cotton mills. They were usually confined to unskilled labour and had few opportunities for advancement. An 1890 Bureau of Labor survey showed that where 800 men and women were surveyed doing the same work, the majority of men received higher wages. The gap was greater in Southern factories. In sweatshops, another growth sector of the economy in the so-called 'Gilded Age', low wages and very hazardous and oppressive working conditions were common. Also, the expansion of cities brought the rapid growth of prostitution as some girls and women preferred the dangers of sex work to the poor wages and conditions which were the alternative to domestic services or factories and sweatshops. Male trade unionists offered limited support for female workers whom they saw as undercutting wages. In 1882, a strike in a textile mill in Lawrence, Massachusetts, over a twenty per cent pay cut failed after four months with no support from the male unions. Although the Knights of Labor did promote women membership, its successor as the largest union, the American Federation of Labor was very much less sympathetic to women in the 1890s and represented skilled workers – something women could not become. By 1900, only two per cent of all trade unionists were women.

Adapted from: N. Fellows and M. Wells, Civil Rights in the USA 1865–1992, published in 2016.

SECTION B

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2*** How important was the role of African Americans in gaining African American civil rights in the period from 1865 to 1992? **[25]**
- 3*** 'The actions of the American Indian Movement of the 1960s and 1970s did more to advance the civil rights of the Native Americans than any other factor during the period from 1865 to 1992.' How far do you agree? **[25]**
- 4*** 'Developments in the 1960s had more impact on gender equality in the USA than developments that occurred in any other period from 1865 to 1992.' How far do you agree? **[25]**

END OF QUESTION PAPER

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