



GCE AS/A level

1232/08

HISTORY – HY2

UNIT 2

IN-DEPTH STUDY 8

THE CRISIS OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC, c. 1848-1877

P.M. TUESDAY, 22 May 2012

1½ hours

**Suitable for Modified
Language Candidates**

1232
080001

ADDITIONAL MATERIALS

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES

Use black ink or black ball-point pen.

Answer **one** question.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES

The number of marks is given in square brackets at the end of each part-question.

The time you spend on a part-question should be in proportion to the marks available.

The sources and quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

You are reminded that marking will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers.

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IN-DEPTH STUDY 8

THE CRISIS OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC, c. 1848-1877

Answer **one** question.

1. Study the sources below and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

‘On the 4th day of March 1861 the Federal government will pass into the hands of the Abolitionists. I have no doubt of your right or duty to secede from the Union.’

[Howell Cobb, a leading southern Democrat politician, writing in a document sent to his electorate in Georgia (6 December 1860)]

Source B

‘The secession conspiracy which has for the last twenty years been gnawing at the heart-strings of the great American republic, has at last culminated in open war upon its glittering and resplendent flag. For the first time in the history of the United States, an organised attempt is made to destroy, by force of arms, the government which the American people have formed for themselves – to overthrow the glorious Constitution which has made us the envy of the world. The history of the world has never seen so causeless an outrage. The South has chosen war, and so it must have all the war it wants.’

[From an editorial in the *New York Times*, a Northern newspaper, just after the bombardment of Fort Sumter had begun (13 April 1861)]

Source C

‘At the stroke of a pen the President’s Emancipation Proclamation will accomplish the greatest social and political revolution of the age.’

[From an article in *The Springfield Republican*, an influential Northern newspaper (24 October 1862)]

Source D

‘Lincoln was a conservative, his actions characterised by caution, avoidance of rashness and reliance upon unhurried, peaceful evolution. His preferred solution to the slavery problem was a programme of gradual compensation with the consent of the owners stretching over a generation.’

[J.G Randall, an academic historian specialising in the American Civil War, writing in a biography, *Lincoln, the Liberal statesman* (1947)]

Source E



[An advertisement for Harriet Beecher Stowe's book, *Uncle Tom's Cabin*, the best-selling anti-slavery novel (1852)]

- (a) Study Source A. Use the source and **your own knowledge** to explain the meaning of the phrase "to secede from the Union". [4]
- (b) Study Sources A and E. Use these sources and **your own knowledge** to explain the importance of slavery. [8]
- (c) Study Sources A and B. How reliable are these sources in explaining the outbreak of the American Civil War? [16]
- (d) Study Sources C and D. How far does Source C support or contradict the interpretation of Lincoln given in Source D? [20]
- (e) How useful are these sources to an understanding of the American Civil War up to 1865? [32]
(In your answer you are advised to use relevant background knowledge from the in-depth study, as well as information gained from the sources and the attributions.)

2. Study the sources below and answer the questions that follow.

Source A

‘Lee was a good man, a fair commander, and had everything in his favour. But he also had a slow cautious nature, without imagination, or humour, always the same, with grave dignity. This is why he lost the war really. The illusion that heavy odds beat him will not stand the ultimate light of history.’

[General U.S. Grant, the former commander of the Northern armies, recalling his opponent Robert E. Lee, in a conversation with a journalist (1877)]

Source B

‘The legend of Lee is at odds with the facts. He was not anti-slavery; he was a strong believer in the institution. His aggressive, offensive generalship cost his army disproportionate and excessive casualties. His persistence in continuing the war after he realised the South was defeated was costly in lives.’

[Alan Nolan, a revisionist historian, writing in a history book, *The Myth of the Lost Cause and Civil War History* (2010)]

Source C

‘The difference between us is that our slaves are hired for life and well compensated; there is no starvation, no begging, no want of employment among our people, and not too much employment either. Yours are hired by the day, not cared for, and scantily compensated, which may be proved in the most painful manner, at any hour in any street in any of your large towns. Why you meet more beggars in one day, on any single street of the city of New York, than you would meet in a lifetime in the whole South.’

[Senator James Hammond of South Carolina, a Southern planter and politician, in a speech to Congress, comparing slaves in the South to workers in the North (4 March 1858)]

Source D

‘The Abolitionists were correct. Slavery was a backward economic system, contrary to the laws of capitalism: slaves were not paid wages; they had no positive incentive to work as hard as they could. Only the threat of physical abuse and torture got slaves to work at all – there was no flexibility in hiring or firing. It created no incentive to increase productivity and education among workers. Southerners dragged down the American economy. This became more obvious in the 1850s, when the new Republican Party praised Northern capitalism as economically superior to slavery.’

[Christopher J. Olsen, an academic historian, writing in a revisionist history of the Civil War, *The American Civil War* (2006)]

Source E



[A painting of the Union victory at Nashville in December 1864. The painting was by Northern artists Kurz and Allison and was created in 1878]

- (a) Study Source D. Use the source and **your own knowledge** to explain the meaning of the term “Abolitionists”. [4]
- (b) Study Sources A and B. Use these sources and **your own knowledge** to explain the importance of General Robert E. Lee in the American Civil War. [8]
- (c) Study Sources A and E. How reliable are Sources A and E in explaining why the South lost the Civil War? [16]
- (d) Study Sources C and D. How far does Source C support or contradict the interpretation of slavery given in Source D? [20]
- (e) How useful are these sources to an understanding of the American Civil War up to 1865? [32]

(In your answer you are advised to use relevant background knowledge from the in-depth study, as well as information gained from the sources and the attributions.)