



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate
Principal Subject

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HISTORY

9769/75

Paper 5n Special Subject: The Civil Rights Movement in the USA, 1954–1980

May/June 2012

2 hours

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.

Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.

Write in dark blue or black pen.

You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.

Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

You are reminded of the need for analysis and critical evaluation in your answers to questions. You should also show, where appropriate, an awareness of links and comparisons between different countries and different periods.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

The number of marks is given in brackets [] at the end of each question or part question.

This document consists of **4** printed pages.



Answer the following question.**Nominated topic: White resistance actions**

- 1 Study all the following documents and answer all the questions which follow. In evaluating and commenting upon the documents it is essential to set them alongside, and to make use of, your own contextual knowledge.

- A** *Signed by 19 US Senators and 79 members of the House of Representatives – all from the South – this statement criticised the Brown v Board of Education of Topeka (1954) decision.*

We regard the decision of the Supreme Court in the school cases as a clear abuse of judicial power. It climaxes a trend in the Federal judiciary to take decisions that under mine the authority of Congress and to encroach upon the reserved rights of the States and the people. The original Constitution does not mention education. These rights, restated time and again, became part of the life of the people of many of the States and confirmed their habits, customs, traditions and way of life. Parents should not be deprived by Government of the right to direct the lives and education of their own children. This unwarranted exercise of power by the Court is destroying the amicable relations between the White and Negro races that have been created through 90 years of patient effort by the good people of both races.

Declaration of Southern Principles, 12 March 1956.

- B** *During a discussion for NBC three White students (Sammy, Joe and Kay) exchange views with two of the 'Little Rock Nine' Black American students (Ernest and Minniejean). Content removed due to copyright restrictions.*

Televised recording, 1957.

- C** *An FBI informant recalls the arrangement made between the police in Birmingham, Alabama, and the Ku Klux Klan in May 1961.*

The rioting that greeted the Freedom Riders in Birmingham was not the brainchild of the Klan: it was instigated by members of the police department. They agreed to stay in their headquarters. The Klan would be allowed 15 minutes from the time the buses entered the terminal to beat, stab, maim and terrorize the passengers. Police officer Collins told the Klan, 'We don't want anybody telling us what to do in our State' On the day the place was deserted. Everyone who got off the buses was clubbed, kicked or beaten. There was fighting everywhere and blood splattered the streets. Officer Turner then shouted to the Klan to get out and as he did so a coloured woman ran up to him pleading for help for her husband. Turner said, 'Negro, you'd better get the hell a way.' Before she finished other Klansmen slapped and kicked her, one squarely between the eyes and another in the stomach.

Gary Thomas Rowe, Jr., *My Undercover Years with the Ku Klux Klan*, 1976.

- D** *Following the launch of a campaign by the NAACP (National Association for the Advancement of Colored People) to register Black Americans as voters, one of its members describes his experiences in Mississippi in 1961.*

Content removed due to copyright restrictions.

Robert Moses, *Mississippi*, 1970.

- E** *A government commission headed by the Governor of Illinois reports on the causes of the urban unrest of 1967.*

Race prejudice has shaped our history decisively; now it threatens to affect our future. White racism is essentially responsible for the explosive mixture which has been accumulating in our cities since the end of World War II. There are many ingredients in this mixture including segregation, poverty, frustrated hopes, violence by Whites and Negroes and the police. They are not merely a 'spark factor'. To some Negroes police have come to symbolise White power, White racism and White repression. And the fact is that many police do reflect and express these White attitudes. The atmosphere of hostility and cynicism is reinforced by a widespread belief among Negroes in the existence of police brutality and in a 'double standard' of justice and protection – one for Negroes and one for Whites.

The Kerner Commission, Report, 1968.

- (a) How far do the events described in Document C corroborate the criticisms of the legal authorities made in Document D? [10]
- (b) How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents that interference in the affairs of the States was the main reason for White opposition to civil rights for Black Americans?

In making your evaluation, you should refer to contextual knowledge as well as to all the documents in this set (A–E). [20]

Answer one of the following questions. *Where appropriate, your essay should make use of any relevant documents you have studied, as well as contextual knowledge.*

- 2 'Of all his qualities, his skill as an organiser was most important.' How far do you agree with this view of Martin Luther King as a civil rights leader in the period 1955 to 1968? [20]
- 3 Assess the importance of the role of the media in advancing the cause of civil rights for Black Americans in the period 1954 to 1980. [30]
- 4 'The strategy of Affirmative Action failed to deliver what it promised for the Black American civil rights movement in the 1970s.' How far do you agree with this judgement? [30]

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