

KENNEDY COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

(ASSESSMENT OBJECTIVE 1 ONLY)

GCSE HISTORY COURSEWORK ASSIGNMENTS

Teacher Information

Introduction:

These assignments comprise sources, questions and mark schemes which will enable your pupils to fulfil the coursework requirements in history for Edexcel Foundation specifications for first examination in summer 2003. You may use these assignments as they stand. They have been designed to assess the full range of grades targeted by the syllabus (Grades G-A*). Assistance may be given in class to aid the comprehension of the sources.

You may also adapt these assignments if wished by:

- providing additional or replacement sources
- providing additional or replacement questions.

However, if you wish to make changes you should submit these to the Edexcel Foundation for approval to ensure that revised sources or questions give candidates appropriate opportunity to meet the targets specified at the appropriate level.

Management of the assignment:

The assignment has been designed to accommodate some flexibility of classroom practice. The following points should be borne in mind:

- Although all the questions *may* be tackled as part of a single task, this is not necessary. The timing of individual questions within an assignment may be staggered over a period of time and integrated into the programme of study.
- Candidates may use the sources provided in the pack as part of their preparation for Assignment 1 but this is not a requirement.
- Your candidates should draw upon their contextual knowledge when using the sources for Assignment 2. The historical content listed below should be familiar to candidates before they attempt to answer the questions.

The Assassination of President John F Kennedy

This assignment should arise from a teaching programme designed to occupy approximately half a term. Before candidates begin this assignment they should have knowledge of:

- The impact of the Second World War on US society
- McCarthyism and the 'red scare'
- 'New Frontiers', 'Great Society': the roles of Kennedy and Johnson
- US politics and society in the 1970s.

Introduction

On 22 November 1963 President J F Kennedy was assassinated in Dallas. A Commission headed by Chief Justice Warren was set up to investigate the murder. The Commission blamed the murder on Lee Harvey Oswald working on his own.

In 1976 the House of Representatives set up a second commission, the House Select Committee on Assassinations. In its report in 1979, the Committee said that the murder was the work of a conspiracy.

Since 1979 many theories have been put forward about the motives for the assassination and the identity of the person or persons involved.

Your task is to study the sources and then try to reach some conclusions about the circumstances of the assassination. You are not being asked to solve the murder. That would be impossible; you are being asked to try to explain why there has been so much uncertainty over the murder of the President of the USA.

SOURCE A: Lee Harvey Oswald's movements after the shooting of Kennedy, according to the Warren Commission Report

Time	Lee Harvey Oswald's movements
12.30	President Kennedy shot
12.31	Oswald stopped by policeman on the second floor of the Texas Schoolbook Depository
12.33	Oswald left the Depository
12.40	Oswald boarded a bus on the corner of Elm and Murphy Streets
12.44	Oswald got off the bus, when it is caught in traffic
12.48	Oswald took a taxi at the junction of Commerce and Lamar Streets
12.54	Oswald arrived by taxi at his lodgings, 1026 North Breckley Avenue
1.03	Oswald left his lodgings
1.16	A Police Officer J D Tippit was killed at Tenth Street and Patton Avenue. Oswald was identified as the murderer
1.40	Oswald was arrived at the Texas Theater
1.50	Oswald was arrested at the Texas Theater

SOURCE B: The main conclusions of the Warren Commission

President Kennedy was murdered by a single gunman, Lee Harvey Oswald, using a Mannlicher-Carcano rifle.

Oswald fire three shots from the sixth floor of the Texas Schoolbook Depository.

The President had been hit by two bullets. The second one had entered the back of his head and caused his death.

Lee Harvey Oswald had no accomplices.

SOURCE C: Part of the evidence presented to the Warren Commission about the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle found on the sixth floor of the Depository

The Mannlicher-Carcano rifle had been brought by mail order by 'A Hidell'. It had been sent to P O Box 2915, Dallas, Texas.

Oswald possessed a forged identity with the name Alek J Hidell.

Oswald had rented the P O Box 2915.

SOURCE D: Forensic evidence presented to the Warren Commission

A palm print on the rifle barrel was identified as Oswald's. Oswald's hand prints were also found on boxes and a paper bag on the sixth floor.

SOURCE E: Eyewitnesses who gave evidence to the Warren Commission

Marina Oswald, Oswald's wife, stated that her husband owned a rifle, which he kept in the garage at the house that she was staying at. When the garage was searched the rifle was missing.

Lillie Mae Randall, a neighbour, stated that Oswald had carried a long paper bag to work on the morning of 22 November. It was about 28 inches long.

Buell Wesley Frazier, who gave Oswald a lift to work, stated that he saw Oswald carry a long package in a paper bag to the Depository on 22 November. It was about 27 inches long.

Charles Givens stated that he saw Oswald on the sixth floor of the Depository at 11.55 am.

Howard Brennan selected Oswald from an identity parade as the man bearing the closest resemblance to a rifleman he saw at the sixth floor window.

SOURCE F: An account of Lee Harvey Oswald's early life; this is based upon the findings of the Warren Commission

Lee Harvey Oswald was born on 18 October 1939. His father had died before he was born. Oswald was brought up by his mother with two elder brothers, both of whom had left home by 1952. He had lived various places in the USA and attended many schools.

In 1956, Oswald joined the US Marines staying for two and a half years and leaving in the summer of 1959. In October 1959 he entered the Soviet Union on a six-day tourist visa. On 31 October he gave up his American passport and was allowed to stay in USSR. He settled in Minsk and married Marina Prusakova after six weeks.

In the summer of 1961 he announced that he wanted to return to USA and was finally allowed back in June 1962, with his wife and baby daughter, June.

The Oswalds lived for a time in Fort Worth, then moved to New Orleans in 1963. Marina and the baby moved to Dallas and Oswald followed in early October. He was found a job in the Texas Schoolbook Depository by a friend of his wife. On 16 October Lee Harvey Oswald began work at the Depository.

In Fort Worth and New Orleans Oswald had been active in left-wing politics. He had joined an organisation called the Fair Play for Cuba Committee and set up a new branch in New Orleans.

After his arrest Lee Harvey Oswald was held in the Dallas Police Headquarters and questioned. He denied all knowledge of the assassination. At 11.20 am on the morning of the 24 November, Oswald was himself murdered by Jack Ruby, as he was being taken from the Police Headquarters to court.

SOURCE G: Eyewitnesses of the assassination who gave evidence to the Warren Commission

Jean Hill (a school teacher standing near the president's car)

"I heard four to six shots, and I'm pretty used to guns. They weren't echoes or anything like that. They were different guns that were being fired."

Gordon Arnold (a young soldier home on leave, standing on the Grassy Knoll)

"The shot came from behind me only inches over my left shoulder. I had just come out of basic training. In my mind, live ammunition was being fired. It was being fired over my head and I hit the dirt."

Bonnie Ray Williams (a worker in the Depository)

"I went to the sixth floor to eat my lunch and stayed there until 12.20. There was nobody there."

Carolyn Arnold (a secretary working in the Depository)

"About a quarter of an hour before the assassination I went into the lunchroom on the second floor. Oswald was sitting on one of the booths and appeared to be having lunch."

Arnold Williams (he was watching the parade)

"I saw two men on the sixth floor of the Depository. On the far left was a man holding a rifle with a telescopic sight. There was another dark-complexioned man in the window on the right. This would be about 12.15 pm."

SOURCE H: (Tests on the Mannlicher-Carcano rifle by the FBI)

Tests were conducted on 27 November 1963, during 1964 and in 1979 after the case was reopened by an Assassinations Committee appointed by Congress, the House Select Committee on Assassinations.

All tests found that the rifle was inaccurate and even shots at stationary targets missed. The rifle was described as "crudely made, poorly designed, dangerous and inaccurate."

The rifle could be dismantled, but the longest part was 35 inches.

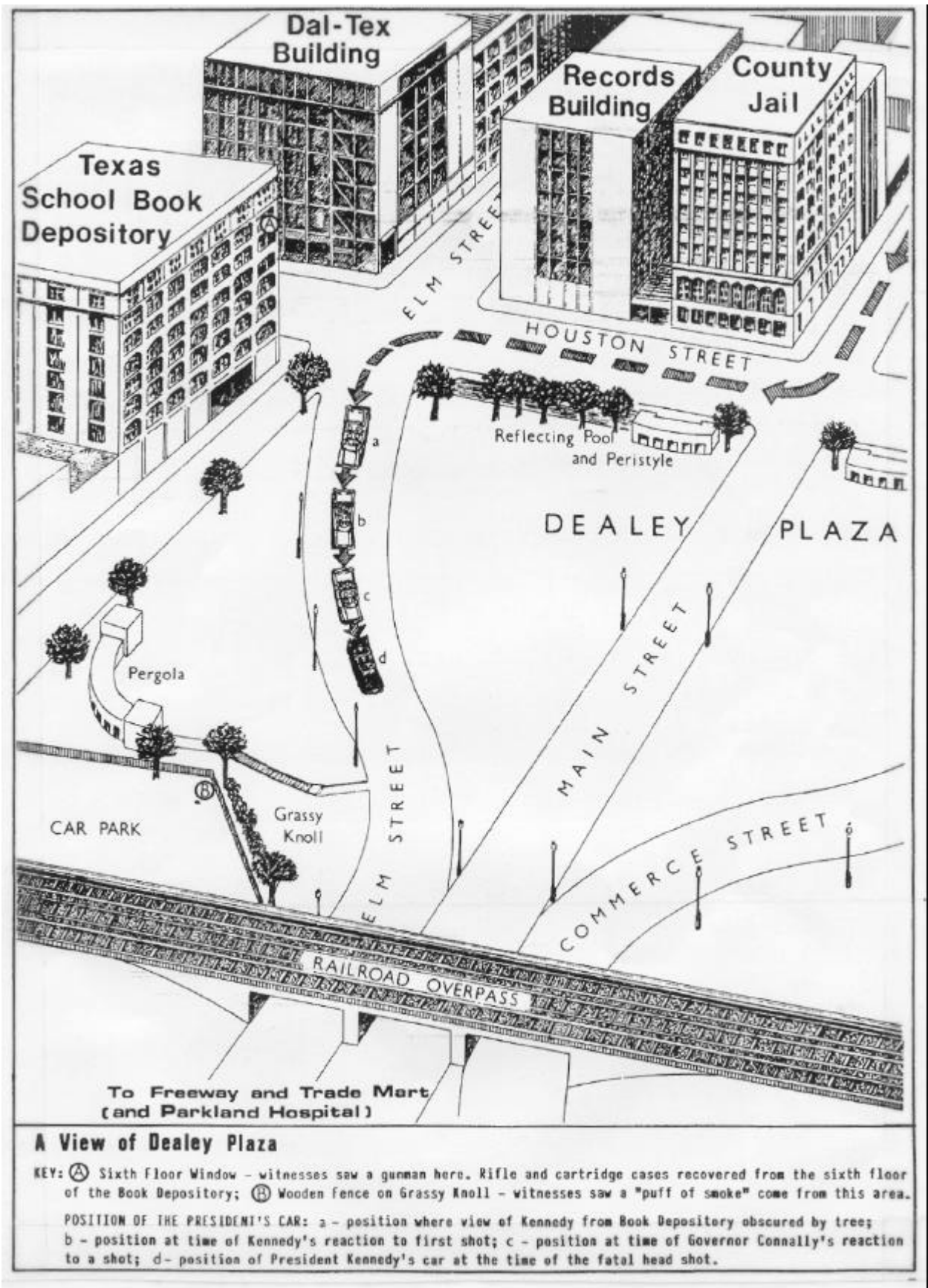
The ammunition for the rifle was frequently of very poor quality. In one batch 17 out of 20 bullets were defective and failed to fire.

SOURCE I: The Dallas police tape. This recording was made on the day of the murder but only discovered in the late 1970s

In 1978 a police tape-recording was discovered, which had been made at the time of a assassination in 1963. According to Professor Robert Blakely, Chief Counsel to the Assassinations Committee this showed:

“Four shots, over a total period of 7.91 seconds, were fired at the Presidential limousine. The first, second and fourth came from the Depository; the third came from the Grassy Knoll.”

SOURCE J: A modern drawing of the scene of the assassination



Assignment One

1. Describe the problems that President Kennedy faced in the years from 1961 to 1963. **(15)**
2. Why did the Warren Commission decide that John F Kennedy was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald acting on his own? **(15)**
3. What reasons could the HSCA have in 1979 for suggesting that President Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy in 1963? **(20)**

(Total: 50 marks)

Coursework Assignment Mark Scheme

Kennedy

Assignment One

Assessment Objective 1

1. *Describe the problems that President Kennedy faced in the years from 1961 to 1963.* (15)
- Target: Key features/recall of knowledge**
- Level 1:** Simple statements offering some problems supported by some knowledge, eg Cuba, Civil Rights, Marilyn Monroe etc (1-5)
- Level 2:** Developed statements giving problems supported by relevant knowledge eg the sending of Soviet missiles to Cuba, the increasing problems of discrimination against negroes, Bills in Congress were held up etc. (6-10)
- Level 3:** Developed exposition of problems showing links between them, eg many domestic problems centred on the southern states or problems in foreign affairs were linked to Kennedy's inexperience and in context of developing Cold War. (11-15)
2. *Why did the Warren Commission decide that John F Kennedy was shot by Lee Harvey Oswald acting on his own?* (15)
- Target: Causation/recall of knowledge**
- Level 1:** Simple statements giving reasons for the decision supported by some knowledge, eg the evidence of fingerprints, the gun etc. (1-5)
- Level 2:** Developed statements giving reasons supported by relevant knowledge, eg Oswald had the opportunity and the means, he was clearly linked with both the scene of the crime and the weapon found at the crime etc. (6-10)
- Level 3:** Developed explanation supported by appropriately selected knowledge showing understanding of the sequence of events on 22 November and the links between them; also pressures on Warren Commission, eg relates Oswald's movements to the evidence of eyewitnesses, and shows understanding of the significance of Oswald's background etc. (11-15)

3. *What reasons could the HSCA have in 1979 for suggesting that President Kennedy was the victim of a conspiracy?* (20)

Target: Causation/recall of knowledge

Level 1: Simple statements giving reasons supported by some knowledge, eg new evidence was available, eg the police tape, new forensic tests etc. (1-5)

Level 2: Developed statements giving reasons supported by relevant knowledge, eg the forensic tests showed that it was very unlikely that Oswald's gun could have shot Kennedy and the police tape suggested that there were at least two assassins etc. (6-10)

Level 3: Developed explanation supported by appropriately selected knowledge showing understanding of the sequence of events on 22 November and the links between them, eg the evidence of other eyewitnesses was now supported by forensic evidence, this evidence cast doubt on the earlier decisions of the Warren Commission etc. (11-15)

Level 4: Sustained argument supported by precisely selected knowledge, which shows understanding of the reasons why the original verdict of the Warren Commission was regarded as suspect and the inconclusiveness of the findings of the HSCA, references may be made on the wider implications of the trial, eg the implication of the CIA etc. (16-20)