



AS HISTORY

The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975

Component 1K From Civil War to World War, 1865–1920

Wednesday 14 May 2025 Afternoon Time allowed: 1 hour 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 7041/1K.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Extract A

By 1890, there was no room for further expansion across continental America. The expansionist urge, previously focused on pushing the frontier and building an economic empire, was therefore projected outwards and west across the Pacific. The USA looked first to Hawaii, the Philippines and the Far East and then took on wider responsibilities for the defence of the western hemisphere. This feeling of responsibility replaced the isolationist instinct. The change in attitude brought the United States across the Atlantic into the European War of 1914 to 1918 as a major world power. The European War quickened the transformation of the United States; the days of isolation were over.

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Adapted from F Thistlethwaite, *The Great Experiment: An Introduction to the History of the American People*, 1955

Extract B

It is absolutely clear that the Great War and Woodrow Wilson transformed US foreign policy more dramatically than any other developments in American History. As a result of the war, the United States moved away from the isolationist attitudes that had prevailed since 1890 and became a major player in world politics and economics. Americans began to recognise their changing position in the international system. However, they were not threatened by events beyond their shores and therefore remained unwilling to take on the sort of commitments Wilson asked of them. Americans had learned more about international relations during Wilson's presidency. The 1920 election saw the Americans reject involvement in world affairs.

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Adapted from GC Herring, *From Colony to Superpower: US Foreign Relations since 1776*, 2008

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With reference to these extracts and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two extracts provides the more convincing interpretation of US isolationism by 1920?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

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'In the years 1865 to 1890, the development of the American economy was due to the rise of corporations.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

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'American society was transformed in the years 1890 to 1914.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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