

A-level HISTORY

Component 2Q The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980

Friday 16 June 2017

Morning

Time allowed: 2 hours 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 7042/2Q.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a 1973 magazine interview with Edward C Banfield, an American political scientist who taught at Harvard and the University of Chicago. He was also an adviser to Nixon, Ford and Reagan.

Almost all of the Great Society programs (the exceptions are the civil-rights laws) range from unsuccessful to counter-productive. The number of the poor did decline by a quarter between 1965 and 1970. Without any doubt the Great Society programs accounted for some of this but the Social Security program established by the New Deal accounted for more and there were other people whose increase of income was due to the natural growth of the economy. On the whole, poverty seems to have decreased at a slower rate in the 1960s than before. The principal factors affecting the rate of movement out of poverty are not the good intentions of legislators or the generosity of taxpayers: rather they are changes in the composition of the population and in the size of the gross national product. It is reasonable to expect that, by 1980, no one will be below the existing poverty line. This would be the case, no doubt, even if the War on Poverty had never been declared.

Source B

From a 1967 article by Robert Lekachman, Professor of Economics at Lehman College in New York. Lekachman was an advocate of government intervention and described himself as a socialist.

In the period we are about to enter, those programs which are strongest – because they do most for the prosperous and least for Negroes and the poor generally – will become increasingly consolidated. As usual the prosperous will come to appreciate just how easily social spending can be converted to the advantage of those who need it least. Possibly Mr Johnson went just about as far as a conservative politician in a conservative, racist country could have gone. The Great Society has distributed the nation's income even less equally than it was distributed before 1960. It has enlarged the prestige and influence of the business community. It has lost its fights with racism and poverty. The Great Society has ground to a halt far short of a massive attack on urban problems, far short of the full integration of Negroes into American society, and far short of a genuine assault upon poverty and deprivation. These are the unfulfilled aims of a true effort to realize a Great Society.

Source C

From a letter sent by Bayard Rustin in 1973 to Nathan Glazer, a Professor of Sociology at Harvard. Rustin was the organiser of the 1963 March on Washington and a close friend of Martin Luther King.

Did the Great Society fail? No. The Great Society wasn't totally successful; government was guilty of promising more than it could deliver. But acknowledging its shortcomings is quite a different thing from dismissing the programs as outright failures. The truth is that the poor have benefitted; and that, for the first time since the New Deal, the direction of social policy has been determined by a commitment to the principle of equality. What brought about the gap between promise and performance? I think there were three fundamental weaknesses in the strategy. First, the objectives were short-sighted, with an emphasis on providing services rather than more ambitious and permanent goals, such as a guaranteed annual income for the poor. Second, the administration tried to correct the political powerlessness of minorities, at the expense of attacking the economic roots of inequality. Finally, a most serious weakness was the enormous under-financing of the majority of programs.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying Johnson's Great Society.

[30 marks]

Turn over for the next question

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

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 'The success of the civil rights movement in the years 1947 to 1957 was dependent on the NAACP [National Association for the Advancement of Colored People].'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

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 'Eisenhower's foreign policy in Europe differed significantly from his foreign policy elsewhere in the world.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

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 To what extent were the presidencies of Ford and Carter disastrous for the USA at home and abroad?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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