

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced Subsidiary

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1F: In search of the American dream: the USA, c1917–96

Wednesday 17 May 2017 – Afternoon

Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

8HI0/1F

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From David M. Abshire and Richard E. Neustadt, *Saving the Reagan Presidency*, published 2005.

Ronald Reagan was truly a transformational leader who accomplished his transformational objectives: He changed people's views of the presidency and the role of government; he electrified the Republican Party and moved it towards a majority party; he restored national optimism and he turned the tide in the Cold War. The Reagan period – of the information revolution and opportunities for more creative market approaches – called for moving in the direction towards decentralization. Even his predecessor had recognized this need in his deregulation policies. Reagan personified and dramatized this new direction, he propagated the idea of smaller government, which George H. W. Bush and Bill Clinton followed. Frustrated by an inflationary economy, and waging an unending Cold War, America needed a leader who could see beyond the murky present to bold, new visions. It needed a leader with transforming ideas and the ability to communicate them, a leader with the good will and incredible optimism to attract others to accept his visions of the future.

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Extract 2: From Cheryl Hudson and Gareth Davies, *Ronald Reagan and the 1980s*, published 2008.

Despite his commitment to conservative causes, Reagan's record, measured in public policy terms, is surprisingly scant. In areas such as welfare, social security, environmental reform, taxation, a significant policy legacy is detectable but not of sufficient stature to justify the contemporary notion of a Reagan revolution. The idea of Reagan's election in 1980 being a fundamental turning point is complicated further when we consider the events and developments of the previous decade. In important respects, the seeds of the post-1983 boom were sown during the 1970s, which was the decade of the personal computer, the fax, cordless phones, videocassettes, and pocket calculators. A number of the conservative trends that we associate with the later decade can be seen to have roots in the 1970s, including supply-side economics*, the start of a new arms build-up, the trend to deregulation, conservative electoral gains and the shift of the Republican party to the right.

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*Supply-side economics = the belief that removing barriers to the production and supply of goods and services increases economic growth

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