

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations

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

Sample assessment materials for first teaching
September 2015
Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference

9HI0/1F

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Stephen Tuck, *African American Protest during the Reagan Years: Forging New Agendas, Defending Old Victories*, published 2008.

For the traditional civil rights leadership, the rise of Reagan spelled trouble. A director of the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) complained, 'The age of the volunteer has come to an end.' By the end of the 1980s, NAACP membership had plummeted from half a million to barely a hundred thousand; support for nonviolent, progressive students had been replaced by majority condemnation of violent, idle young black men. Histories of the civil rights movement describe the Reagan years as years of deterioration and decline. 5

The downturn in fortune experienced by many African Americans during these years seems to confirm the gloomy picture. The inequality gap in wages and employment held steady through to the mid-1990s, and in some aspects the gap widened. Inner city poverty, family breakdown, and gang violence were seemingly entrenched. The arrival of crack cocaine in the mid-1980s compounded the problem. New get-tough crime measures led to an astonishing rise in the numbers of young black men in prison. During the 1980s, sociologists popularized the term 'underclass' – a group with no prospect of breaking out of poverty. Little wonder then, that many polls showed increasing pessimism among African Americans that racial equality would be achieved within a lifetime. 10 15

Extract 2: From Gil Troy, *The Reagan Revolution: A Very Short Introduction*, published 2009.

The civil rights revolution continued [under Reagan]. Racism was no longer acceptable in public or in polite company. Polls showed that 98 per cent of whites did not object to blacks moving in next door, 95 per cent accepted bosses who were black, 89 per cent would go to a black doctor, and 85 per cent approved of their children hosting black playmates. Even if whites exaggerated their openness, these dramatic attitude shifts created a new, more open-minded, more civil culture. 20 25

African Americans streamed into America's middle class, joining important institutions essential to their eventual success. The number of black undergraduates grew to more than 2 million in 1988. Four hundred thousand blacks served in perhaps America's most color-blind institution, the military, constituting 20 per cent of the overall force. Blacks were moving into previously segregated neighborhoods, and enrolling in formerly lily-white elite schools. They also made their mark not only as doctors, lawyers and corporate executives in previously closed professions, but also as police officers, fire fighters, and electricians. African Americans became healthier too. Their life expectancy increased to 69.7 years in 1987 and the infant mortality rate dropped. 30 35

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Acknowledgements

Extract 1 is from Stephen Tuck, *'African American Protest during the Reagan Years: Forging New Agendas, Defending Old Victories'*, in G Davies and C Hudson (eds), *Ronald Reagan and the 1980s: Perceptions, Policies Legacies (Studies of the Americas)*, Palgrave Macmillan 2008 © Macmillan Publishers Ltd; Extract 2 is from Gil Troy, *The Reagan Revolution: A Very Short Introduction*, Oxford University Press 2009. By permission of Oxford University Press, USA

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