



**A LEVEL HISTORY**

**UNIT 4**

**DEPTH STUDY 7**

**THE CRISIS OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC c.1840-1877**

**PART 2: CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION c.1861-1877**

**SPECIMEN PAPER**

**1 hour 45 minutes**

### **ADDITIONAL MATERIALS**

In addition to this examination paper, you will need a 12 page answer book.

### **INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES**

**Answer Question 1 and either Question 2 or 3.**

### **INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES**

The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question.

You are advised to spend up to 60 minutes on Question 1 and up to 45 minutes on either Question 2 or 3.

The sources and quotations used in this unit may have been amended or adapted from the stated published work in order to make the wording more accessible.

In your answers, you should use knowledge and understanding gained from your study of Unit 2 (AS) where appropriate.

**UNIT 4****DEPTH STUDY 7****THE CRISIS OF THE AMERICAN REPUBLIC c.1840-1877****PART 2: CIVIL WAR AND RECONSTRUCTION c.1861-1877**

**Answer Question 1 and either Question 2 or 3.**

**QUESTION 1 (COMPULSORY)**

Study the following sources and answer the question that follows:

**Source A**

From now until God's judgment day, the minds of men will not cease to thrill at the killing of Abraham Lincoln, by the hand of Booth, the actor, in the theatre at Washington, on the night of April 14<sup>th</sup>, 1865. Some will regard it with all the horror of the most wicked assassination, others will feel it to be that righteous retribution which descends direct from the hand of God upon the destroyer of human liberty, and the oppressor of a free people.

Fully embarked in the war, the change came upon Mr Lincoln, which has ever come upon the souls of men over which any great end of ambition or fanaticism obtains control, and settles into fixed purpose.

And so Abraham Lincoln came to think that the one great and supreme object – it may be that he thought it the object of real and ultimate good to mankind – was the complete and unresisted re-establishment of the power of the government of the United States by the arms of the Northern people, and by the arms of foreign mercenaries from every land, and even by the arms of our own domestic slaves, over the people of the Southern states. No constitution, no law, no right, no humanity stood in the way of this end. Treasure was nothing, human life was nothing, old and cardinal principles of liberty and sentiments of right were nothing, in order to reach his end. We saw successively in his public documents how super-ruling became his purpose, and how callous to all the usual motives of humanity he became.

[An editorial about Lincoln's assassination in *The Houston Telegraph*, a southern newspaper, (April 1865)]

**Source B**

ABRAHAM LINCOLN IS DEAD! The blow came at a moment so unexpected and was so sudden and staggering, the crime by which he fell was so atrocious and the manner of it so revolting, that men were unable to realize the fact that one of the purest of citizens, the noblest of patriots, the most beloved and honoured of Presidents, and the most forbearing and magnanimous of rulers had perished at the hands of an assassin.

Every loyal man and woman mourns the loss of one whose unswerving justice, whose pure and unsullied honour and incorruptible integrity, whose magnanimity of character and mercifulness towards his enemies had won the respect even of those enemies themselves. All but traitors mourn him as a personal friend.

President Lincoln died at the hand of SLAVERY. It was SLAVERY that conceived the fearful deed; it was SLAVERY that sought and found the willing instrument and sped the fatal ball; it is SLAVERY alone that will justify the act. Henceforth man will look upon slavery as indeed "the sum of all villainies," the fruitful parent of all crime. This murder was an assault upon the principles of free government, inasmuch as he was the choice of a large majority of the nation for the office which he filled. He has fallen in the very hour of victory, when constitutional free government was being vindicated, and when peace seemed just ready to return to a land torn and distracted by civil war.

[From a feature article in the *Daily State Journal* of Springfield, Lincoln's hometown newspaper (April 1865)]

**Source C**

This fatality weighs heavily on the unhappy country which, after being devastated for four years by an iniquitous war, is suddenly cast down again into the most mournful of states at the very moment when peace seemed possible!

The results of the victories gained by the Union Army may now all be nullified, that is, from the political point of view. The hopes which the South had taken from Mr Lincoln's first declarations may now all be disappointed forever. These hopes were alive, and you will remember how gladly we hailed them. But Mr Lincoln's death came at a time propitious to the glorification of his memory. He died at a time when he was preaching reconciliation and the forgetting of the past when he was nobly repressing the blameworthy exultation of the victorious faction.

This crime is a double misfortune for America! It will reawaken bloodthirsty passions, and perhaps pave the way for terrible reprisals, all at a moment when Mr Lincoln was exerting himself to repair the past, and wanted to be an instrument of peace! His death is of no avail, and can be of no avail to the South, but it gives rise to the danger of enfeebling the North through faction.

[From a speech given to a public audience in Paris by Ernest Dreolle, a leading French politician (April 1865)]

With reference to the sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying reaction to Abraham Lincoln's assassination in 1865. [30]

**ANSWER EITHER QUESTION 2 OR QUESTION 3**

2. 'Confederate defeat in the Civil War was mainly due to superior Union resources.'  
Discuss. [30]
3. 'Life for Black Americans in the reconstructed South was substantially better in 1877  
than it had been in 1865.' Discuss. [30]