

AS HISTORY

The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980

Component 2Q Prosperity, inequality and Superpower status, 1945–1963

Wednesday 25 May 2016 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 7041/2Q.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** 02 **or** 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 AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From 'The Other America: Poverty in the United States' by Michael Harrington, published in 1962. Harrington was a political activist and founder of Democratic Socialists of America.

Middle-class women coming in from the suburbs on a rare trip may catch a glimpse of the other America on the way to the theatre, but their children are segregated in suburban schools. Living out in the suburbs, it is easy to assume that ours is, indeed, an affluent society. The new segregation of poverty is made worse by a well-meaning ignorance. A good many sympathetic Americans are aware of discussion of urban renewal. Driving through the city, they notice there are towering, modern buildings where once there had been tenements or hovels. There is a warm feeling of satisfaction, of pride in the way things are working out: the poor, it is obvious, are being taken care of.

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Source B

From 'The Americans: A new history of the people of the United States' by Oscar Handlin, published in 1963. Handlin was a Professor of History at Harvard.

The central districts of cities are unredeemed wildernesses where the poorest find a home. The residents of these central districts also lack stable communities or families and usually suffer from the disabilities of color. Crime, violence, delinquency and vice have never been absent from these places; the spreading use of drugs and the images of brutality shown in newspapers and on TV make the impact more intense. Great public housing projects supply some of the people with improved amenities but neither add to the available space nor further the reconstruction of communal life. The effect of schemes is still not clear. Affluence affects the suburbanite and the slum-dweller differently. Prosperity enables one to get away; poverty forces the other to remain.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining the extent of affluence in the USA in the early 1960s?

[25 marks]

Section B

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

Either

0 2 'Truman's foreign policy was driven by his desire to preserve peace.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0 3 'McCarthyism had little effect on domestic policies in the USA in the years 1950 to 1954.'

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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