



Cambridge IGCSE™

AMERICAN HISTORY (US)

0409/01

Paper 1 Making of a Nation

May/June 2023

2 hours

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **three** questions in total, from **one** section only.
- For each question you choose, answer every part, **(a)**, **(b)** and **(c)**.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 60.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in parentheses [].



This document has **8** pages. Any blank pages are indicated.

Answer any **three** questions from your chosen section.

You are advised to spend equal time answering each of the three questions.

SECTION A: Emergence of a Nation 1754–1890

1 In the late eighteenth century the United States emerged as a country.

(a) What were the Articles of Confederation? [4]

(b) Explain why a Constitution was developed between 1787 and 1788. [6]

(c) “American colonists rebelled against the British for economic reasons.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

2 The influence of the United States spread across the continent before 1853.

(a) Describe how the United States took control of Florida in 1819. [4]

(b) Why did it take a decade for Texas to be admitted to the Union? [6]

(c) “The United States’ relationship with France was key to defining its borders before 1853.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

3 Throughout this period there was tension between the United States government and Native Americans.

(a) What happened at Sand Creek in 1864? [4]

(b) Explain why Tecumseh led a rebellion against the United States. [6]

(c) To what extent were Reservations the cause of the destruction of the Native American way of life before 1890? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

4 Political divisions tore the country apart in the middle of the nineteenth century.

(a) Describe the Lincoln–Douglas debates held in 1858. [4]

(b) Why did the election of Lincoln in 1860 lead to secession? [6]

(c) To what extent did Reconstruction reunite the country? [10]

[Total: 20]

5 After 1850 there was rapid industrial change in the United States.

(a) Describe what reforms the Farmers' Alliances wanted in the late nineteenth century. [4]

(b) Explain why there was support for the construction of a transcontinental railroad in the second half of the nineteenth century. [6]

(c) To what extent was the availability of natural resources the cause of the Industrial Revolution in the North after 1850? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

6 There were different reasons for immigration and different reactions towards it.

(a) Describe the purpose of the Homestead Act. [4]

(b) Why was there violence between some immigrant communities in American cities? [6]

(c) "Opposition to immigration was based on ideas about religion and culture." To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

Answer any **three** questions from your chosen section.

You are advised to spend equal time answering each of the three questions.

SECTION B: Consolidating the Nation 1890–2000

7 In the early twentieth century some people began to question the way people worked and lived.

(a) Describe what happened at the Triangle Shirtwaist factory in 1911. [4]

(b) Explain why many Progressives wanted to follow the “Wisconsin Idea.” [6]

(c) “Labor unions were successful in improving working conditions in this period.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

8 The 1920s was a decade of change for many Americans.

(a) What were the new methods of advertising in the 1920s? [4]

(b) Why did the availability of credit change the economy of the 1920s? [6]

(c) “Women’s lives did not change significantly during the 1920s.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

9 Economic changes had an impact on peoples’ lives in the 1920s and 1930s.

(a) What happened to unemployment after the Wall Street Crash? [4]

(b) Explain why speculation became an issue in the US economy in the late 1920s. [6]

(c) To what extent was getting people back to work the most important part of the New Deal? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

10 African Americans faced many challenges in their struggle for Civil Rights in this period.

(a) What was the Black Power movement? [4]

(b) Why was the Plessy vs. Ferguson judgement (1896) important to debates about Civil Rights in the early twentieth century? [6]

(c) To what extent was Martin Luther King effective in his campaign for Civil Rights in the 1950s and 1960s? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

11 The United States took on a different role in global politics after 1945.

- (a) What did the term détente mean in the 1960s and 1970s? [4]
- (b) Why did President Reagan meet with Mikhail Gorbachev during the 1980s? [6]
- (c) “The United States policy of containment was successful before 1960.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

12 The United States tried to develop new economic and social ideas after 1945.

- (a) Describe the aims of President Johnson’s “Great Society” program. [4]
- (b) Explain why there was a debate about the use of nuclear energy in the United States during the 1970s. [6]
- (c) To what extent was the federal government responsible for economic prosperity in the United States, 1945–60? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

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