

Cambridge IGCSE™

AMERICAN HISTORY (US)

Paper 1 Making of a Nation

0409/01**May/June 2026****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 The United States made some progress towards democracy before 1840.
 - (a) Describe how American colonists challenged British rule 1763–74. [4]
 - (b) Explain why the Bill of Rights was important. [6]
 - (c) To what extent was Jacksonian Democracy democratic? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

- 2 There were many factors that led to the expansion of the United States.
 - (a) Describe the events leading to the start of the French and Indian War in 1754. [4]
 - (b) Explain why the War of 1812 was significant. [6]
 - (c) “The war with Mexico (1846–48) was the most important factor in the expansion of the US before 1853.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

- 3 By the 1890s, the traditional way of life of the Native American peoples had been destroyed.
 - (a) Describe relations between Native Americans and colonists before American Independence. [4]
 - (b) Explain why the Battle of Wounded Knee was important. [6]
 - (c) Which had the greater impact on the lives of Native Americans, the Indian Removal Act of 1830 or the Plains/Indian Wars of 1850–80? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

- 4** The years before and after the Civil War were ones of division in the United States.
- (a) What was the Dred–Scott case of 1857? [4]
 - (b) Explain why Reconstruction (1865–77) was mainly a failure. [6]
 - (c) To what extent was the Civil War fought over slavery? Explain your answer. [10]
- [Total: 20]
-
- 5** Industrial development in the United States did not benefit everyone in the second half of the nineteenth century.
- (a) Describe the inventions that supported the development of the industrial revolution in the North after 1850. [4]
 - (b) Explain why the spread of railroads had an important impact on American economy and society after 1850. [6]
 - (c) “The Farmers’ Alliances were more successful than labor unions after 1850.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- [Total: 20]
-
- 6** Immigration became a major issue in the second half of the nineteenth century.
- (a) Describe the experiences of the Chinese immigrants who worked on the railroads. [4]
 - (b) Explain why immigration from Mexico increased in the second half of the nineteenth century. [6]
 - (c) “Opposition to immigration in the second half of the nineteenth century was mainly based on economic concerns.” 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** The first decades of the twentieth century were dominated by the Progressive Movement.
- (a) Describe labor relations before 1920. [4]
 - (b) Explain why the Progressive Era Amendments were important. [6]
 - (c) “The most important influence on the Progressive Movement was the work of the muckrakers.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- [Total: 20]
-
- 8** The 1920s was a decade of rapid change.
- (a) Describe the advertising methods used in the 1920s. [4]
 - (b) Explain why US governments introduced tariffs during the 1920s. [6]
 - (c) “The lives of all Americans were transformed for the better in the 1920s.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]
- [Total: 20]
-
- 9** The United States faced enormous challenges in the late 1920s and through the 1930s.
- (a) What was the Dust Bowl? [4]
 - (b) Explain why there was overproduction in American industries towards the end of the 1920s. [6]
 - (c) To what extent did the New Deal solve the problems facing the United States? Explain your answer. [10]
- [Total: 20]

10 The struggle for equal rights for African Americans continued for decades.

- (a) Describe how discrimination against African Americans was challenged in the 1950s. [4]
- (b) Explain why the Plessy vs. Ferguson judgement of 1896 was important. [6]
- (c) Who achieved more for African Americans, Martin Luther King or Malcolm X? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

11 The foreign policy of the United States after the Second World War was dominated by fear of communism.

- (a) What was the Berlin Blockade, 1948–49? [4]
- (b) Explain why President Reagan was important in the ending of the Cold War. [6]
- (c) “The Korean War was more of a failure for the United States than the Vietnam War.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

12 The United States faced many domestic challenges after 1945.

- (a) What was President Carter’s energy plan? [4]
- (b) Explain why the United States enjoyed a period of prosperity in the 1950s. [6]
- (c) To what extent was Reaganomics a success? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

BLANK PAGE

Permission to reproduce items where third-party owned material protected by copyright is included has been sought and cleared where possible. Every reasonable effort has been made by the publisher (Cambridge University Press & Assessment) to trace copyright holders, but if any items requiring clearance have unwittingly been included, the publisher will be pleased to make amends at the earliest possible opportunity.

To avoid the issue of disclosure of answer-related information to candidates, all copyright acknowledgements are reproduced online in our Copyright Acknowledgements Booklet. This is produced for each series of examinations and is freely available to download at www.cambridgeinternational.org after the live examination series.

Cambridge International Education is the name of our awarding body and a part of Cambridge University Press & Assessment, which is a department of the University of Cambridge.