AQA

A-level HISTORY

Component 2Q The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980

Friday 7 June 2024 Afternoon Time allowed: 2 hours 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 7042/2Q.
- Answer **three** questions.
  In **Section A** answer Question 01.
  In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
  – 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  – 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From 'The Southern Manifesto', written to condemn the Supreme Court's 1954 Brown decision, by Southern senators, March 1956. 99 signatories were Democrats and two were Republicans.

The Supreme Court has replaced the established law of the land with their own political and social ideas. This unforgivable exercise of power by the Court, contrary to the Constitution, is creating chaos and confusion in some States. With no regard for the consent of the governed, immediate and revolutionary changes are threatening how our public schools are organised. We believe in the Constitution as the fundamental law of the land. We strongly oppose the Supreme Court's encroachment on the rights reserved to the States. We commend the motives of those States which have declared their intention to resist forced racial integration. Even though we constitute a minority in the present Congress, we have full faith that a majority of the American people share our beliefs. We pledge ourselves to use all lawful means to bring about a reversal of this decision, which is contrary to the Constitution, and to prevent the use of force in its implementation.

Source B

From comments by Ruby Sales, recorded by the Southern Oral History Program, 2011. Sales, a member of the SNCC, had taken part in the 1965 march from Selma to Montgomery.

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Source B is from comments made by Ruby Sales, a member of the SNCC.
Sales argues that Rosa Parks was acting out of a sense of discontent with her treatment as an African-American and both as a woman and a member of the working class. Sales emphasises that the role of women and their sense of injustice was vital in sustaining the movement. Sales talks about the role of preaching, highlighting how the uplifting message of preachers and community connections was vital in sustaining the early movement. Sales also suggests that the emergence of the movement was about status and a desire to be seen as 'first-class human beings'.

Source C

From comments made to John Howard Griffin, a white journalist, by a black café owner, 1959. Griffin had darkened his skin to experience what life was like in the South.

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Source C is from comments a café owner made to a journalist. The café owner argues that African-Americans failed to work together effectively and this allowed whites to operate a 'divide and conquer' system in the South. The café owner believes there is division between African-Americans in relation to the lightness of their skin. He suggests that paler skin is seen as more attractive and successful. The café owner argues that Whites deliberately targeted leading figures in the black community, co-opting them into suppressing their peers.

0 1 With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the problems faced by African-Americans in the years 1954 to 1960.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 ‘Truman was successful in containing Communism in both Europe and Asia.’

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3 To what extent did President Johnson’s Great Society succeed in helping Americans to achieve the ‘American Dream’ in the years 1964 to 1968?

[25 marks]

0 4 ‘Nixon’s Presidency was a success in foreign affairs but a disaster domestically.’

Assess the validity of this view with reference to the years 1969 to 1974.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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