

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]

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