



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2015

## History

## HIS2Q

### Unit 2Q The USA and Vietnam, 1961–1975

Wednesday 20 May 2015 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

#### Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

#### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2Q.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.  
Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

#### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- 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 45 minutes on each question.

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Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

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### Question 1

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** Operation Rolling Thunder started on March 2, 1965. The dikes along the Red River, in North Vietnam, whose destruction would have flooded the valley and killed thousands of people, were never targeted. Hanoi and Haiphong were hardly bruised. One objective of Operation Rolling Thunder was to crack the morale of the Hanoi leaders. The other was to weaken the Communists' fighting capacity by impeding the flow of their men and supplies to the south. Neither goal was ever remotely achieved. In August 1966, General Westmoreland conceded that he saw 'no indication that the resolve of the leadership in Hanoi has been reduced'. 5

Adapted from Stanley Karnow, *Vietnam*, 1985

**Source B** Operation Rolling Thunder killed many North Vietnamese civilians and wounded thousands more, and there was widespread damage. The North Vietnamese government limited casualties by evacuating large numbers of people from the major cities of Hanoi and Haiphong, adjusting work schedules during times of attack, because regular bombing raids tended to follow predictable routines, and digging an elaborate system of tunnels. It used the aerial bombardment to instil popular resistance against the American 'aggressors'; thus the bombing contributed to enhancing, not destroying, morale. Such patriotism was channelled into the rebuilding projects that offset damage to the transportation system and other vital facilities. 5

Adapted from Gary R Hess, *Vietnam: Explaining America's Lost War*, 2009

**Source C** Using their technological superiority, the US troops set out to destroy as many of the enemy as they could find. More than 50 million kilograms of chemicals such as Agent Orange were sprayed over millions of hectares of forests. From 1965 to 1967, South Vietnamese and US aircraft dropped over one million bombs on South Vietnam. General Westmoreland concentrated on large-scale search and destroy missions. The US forces removed the local population, flattened the villages, and then bombed and burned the tunnels of the Vietcong. The sheer destruction made it difficult to distinguish between the 'enemy' and the local Vietnamese population. 5

Adapted from Christine Bragg, *Vietnam, Korea and US Foreign Policy 1945–1975*, 2005

0	1
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Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to Operation Rolling Thunder.

[12 marks]

and

0	2
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Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far were the USA's military tactics responsible for its failure to achieve a final victory in the years 1965 to 1967?

[24 marks]

**Either**

**Question 2**

0	3
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Explain why President Diem had become unpopular in South Vietnam by 1963.

[12 marks]

and

0	4
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'Many people in South Vietnam supported the Vietcong because it was a communist movement.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[24 marks]

or

**Question 3**

0	5
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Explain why the Tet Offensive was regarded in the USA as a defeat.

[12 marks]

and

0	6
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'In the years 1969 to 1973, President Nixon's primary concern in South Vietnam was the withdrawal of US troops.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[24 marks]

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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