



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2014

## History

## HIS2Q

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

Thursday 22 May 2014 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.

---

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

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

---

### Question 1

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

**Source A** This extract, from the testimony of Michael Berhardt, a US soldier present at My Lai in March 1968, is not reproduced here due to third-party copyright restraints.

**Source B** Adapted from General Westmoreland's directive to US commanders, 17 September 1965.

The war in Vietnam is a political as well as a military war. The ultimate goal is to regain the loyalty and cooperation of the people, and to create conditions which permit the people to go about their normal lives in peace and security. A conscious effort must be made to minimize battle casualties amongst ordinary villagers. This requires an extremely high calibre of leadership plus the exercise of judgement and restraint. The ultimate aim is to pacify the Republic of Vietnam by destroying the VC while at the same time re-establishing the government apparatus. Even when an area is occupied by us, the VC may be expected to remain active. An area cannot be considered pacified until the VC activities have been identified and either destroyed or removed.

5

10

**Source C** A substantial number of workers became disillusioned with the Vietnam War, but the reasons for their disillusionment and the form it took, was not the same as radical critics of the war. The Radicals objected to the war primarily on moral grounds. They believed that the Vietcong and North Vietnamese had a just cause. They emphasised American atrocities, South Vietnamese governmental corruption and the indiscriminate slaughter of Vietnamese peasants. They believed anti-war protest as the truest form of patriotism. The workers who opposed the war usually did so on pragmatic grounds, never questioning the justice of the war, but only its consequences. One construction worker, viewing a coffin carrying an American soldier, said, 'The whole goddam country of Vietnam is not worth the life of one American boy'.

5

10

Adapted from Richard Polenberg, *One Nation Divisible, The Pelican History of the United States*, Penguin Books, 1980

**0 1** 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 American military activities in the Vietnam War.

**[12 marks]**

and

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

How important were events such as the My Lai massacre in the growth of opposition to the war within the USA?

**[24 marks]**

**Either**

**Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why President Kennedy ordered American military intervention in Vietnam in 1961.

**[12 marks]**

and

**0 4** 'It was the failure of Kennedy's cautious policies towards Vietnam from 1961 that forced President Johnson to escalate the war in 1964.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[24 marks]**

**Or**

**Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why, in 1969, President Nixon decided to begin the phased withdrawal of US forces from South Vietnam.

**[12 marks]**

and

**0 6** 'The 1973 Paris Agreement showed clearly that Nixon's policies in Vietnam had failed.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[24 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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

Acknowledgement of copyright-holders and publishers

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements in future papers if notified.

Question 1 Source A: Taken from Christian G Appy, Vietnam, The Definitive Oral History, Told From All Sides, Ebury Press, 2008

Question 1 Source B: From A Vietnam War Reader: American and Vietnamese Perspectives by Michael Hunt (Penguin Books 2010).  
Copyright © Michael Hunt, 2010

Copyright © 2014 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.