

## AS HISTORY

The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980

Component 2Q Prosperity, inequality and Superpower status, 1945–1963

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Monday 18 May 2020

Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour 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 7041/2Q.
- Answer **two** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- 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:
  - 50 minutes on Section A
  - 40 minutes on Section B.

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**Section A**

Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From 'To Secure these Rights', by the President's Committee on Civil Rights, published October 1947. This committee had been set up by Truman through Executive Order, 5 December 1946.

Today there are compelling reasons for a re-examination of our civil rights – to eliminate abuses arising from discrimination on the grounds of race, creed, national origin or social and economic status:

1. A moral reason – the United States can no longer allow these burdens on our conscience, weakening our strength of character. 5
2. An economic reason – the United States can no longer afford this heavy drain upon its human wealth, its national capability.
3. An international reason – the United States is not so strong, nor is the final triumph of democracy so inevitable, that we can ignore what the world thinks of us or our record.

**Source B**

From a letter by Truman to his friend, Ernest Roberts, 18 August 1948. This was a response to Roberts' suggestion that Truman should let the South continue its 'traditional' ways.

The main difficulty with the South is that they live eighty years behind the times. I'm not asking for social equality, because no such thing exists, but I am asking for equality of opportunity for all human beings. When the mob can take four people out and shoot them in the back, and everybody in the country knows who did it but nothing is done about it, that country is in pretty bad shape from a law enforcement standpoint. I can't approve of such goings on. I shall never approve this situation. I am going to try to remedy matters and if that ends up in my failure to be re-elected, that failure will be in a good cause. 5

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining Truman's efforts to promote Civil Rights?

**[25 marks]**

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**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

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**Either**

**0 2**

'Eisenhower's main foreign policy concern was the protection of Western Europe from the threat of communism.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**or**

**0 3**

'Kennedy's presidency was successful.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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

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