AMERICAN HISTORY
Paper 1 Making of a Nation
SPECIMEN PAPER

For Examination from 2018

No Additional Materials are required.

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

An answer booklet is provided inside this question paper. You should follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper ask the test administrator for a continuation booklet.

Answer three questions from one section.
For each question you choose, answer every part, (a), (b), and (c).

This paper has two sections.
Section A: Emergence of a Nation 1754–1890
OR
Section B: Consolidating the Nation 1890–2000

You are advised to spend equal time answering each of the three questions.

The number of marks is given in brackets [ ] at the end of each question or part question.
1 During the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, the United States developed as an independent nation.

(a) What were the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation? [4]

(b) Explain why the Bill of Rights was introduced. [6]

(c) “The expansion of voting rights was the most significant feature of Jacksonian Democracy.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

2 Many countries were influential in defining the borders of the United States before 1853.

(a) What was the Louisiana Purchase, 1803? [4]

(b) Why did the United States acquire Florida in 1819? [6]

(c) To what extent were relations with Great Britain the most important factor in defining the borders of the United States before 1853? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

3 The United States government had a large impact on Native Americans in the nineteenth century.

(a) Describe the events of the Sand Creek Massacre in 1864. [4]

(b) Why was there a battle at Wounded Knee in 1890? [6]

(c) “The Reservation System was the main factor that weakened Native American communities in the nineteenth century.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]
4 The Civil War occurred at the end of a period of tension and divisions.

(a) Describe what happened in “Bleeding Kansas”. [4]

(b) Explain how the actions of John Brown increased sectional tensions. [6]

(c) To what extent was the issue of States’ Rights the most important cause of the Civil War? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

5 Rapid economic change had a large impact on the lives of Americans.

(a) Describe the economic impact of the Transcontinental Railroad. [4]

(b) Why did labor unions emerge during the second half of the nineteenth century? [6]

(c) “The consequences of economic growth were positive from 1850 to 1890.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

6 Patterns of immigration to the United States changed after 1860.

(a) What were the terms of the Homestead Act, 1862? [4]

(b) Explain why the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 was passed. [6]

(c) To what extent did new immigration have a positive impact after 1860? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]
Answer any three questions from your chosen section.

Section B: Consolidating the Nation 1890–2000

7 The growth of cities had an impact on many areas of life at the start of the twentieth century.


(b) Explain how labor unions tried to improve working conditions in the early twentieth century. [6]

(c) “The work of the ‘muckrakers’ was the most important influence on Progressive Era reformers.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

8 The standard of living improved for many Americans in the 1920s.

(a) What was meant by the term “laissez-faire government” in the 1920s? [4]

(b) Why were consumer goods important to the economic boom of the 1920s? [6]

(c) To what extent did economic opportunities for women increase during the 1920s? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

9 The economic prosperity of the 1920s was difficult to maintain.

(a) Describe the events of the Wall Street Crash in 1929. [4]

(b) Explain how President Hoover responded to economic problems. [6]

(c) “The most important achievement of the New Deal was to stabilize the banking system.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]
The lives of African Americans changed significantly during the twentieth century.

(a) What happened during the Great Migration? [4]

(b) Explain how some Jim Crow laws were successfully challenged in the 1950s. [6]

(c) “The method of peaceful protest used by Martin Luther King was the most effective approach to improving the lives of African Americans in the 1960s.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

After the Second World War, the United States faced new global challenges.

(a) What was the Truman Doctrine? [4]

(b) Why did the United States become involved in the Korean War? [6]

(c) To what extent was the Cuban Missile Crisis the most significant confrontation between the United States and the Soviet Union from 1945 to 1989? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]

The United States faced political and economic challenges in the decades after the Second World War.

(a) Describe the results of McCarthyism. [4]

(b) How did President Kennedy try to change the United States with his “New Frontier” program? [6]

(c) “The federal government dealt with economic issues successfully during the period from 1970 to 1989.” To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your answer. [10]

[Total: 20]