History
Advanced
Paper 1: Breadth study with interpretations
Option 1F: In search of the American dream: the USA, c1917–96

Instructions
• Use black ink or ball-point pen.
• Fill in the boxes at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
• There are three sections in this question paper. Answer ONE question from Section A, ONE question from Section B and the question in Section C.
• Answer the questions in the spaces provided – there may be more space than you need.

Information
• The total mark for this paper is 60.
• The marks for each question are shown in brackets – use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.

Advice
• Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
• Check your answers if you have time at the end.
SECTION A

Answer EITHER Question 1 OR Question 2.

EITHER

1. How far do you agree that the New Deal brought about a significant improvement in the lives of racial minorities and women?

   (Total for Question 1 = 20 marks)

OR

2. How accurate is it to say that it was the actions of civil rights leaders that explain the increased success of the civil rights campaign in the years 1955–68?

   (Total for Question 2 = 20 marks)
SECTION A

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☑. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☑.

Chosen question number:  Question 1 ☐  Question 2 ☐
SECTION B

Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.

EITHER

3  How far do you agree that the impact the Second World War had on American politics and society was very different from that of the First World War?

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

OR

4  How accurate is it to say that living standards in the USA were transformed for the better in the years 1941–80?

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)
SECTION B

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☑. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☑.

Chosen question number:  

- Question 3 ☑
- Question 4 ☒
SECTION C
Study Extracts 1 and 2 in the Extracts Booklet before you answer this question.

5 In the light of differing interpretations, how convincing do you find the view that the Reagan presidency failed to live up to its own claims to reduce ‘big government’?

To explain your answer, analyse and evaluate the material in both extracts, using your own knowledge of the issues.

(20)
Extracts for use with Section C.


The long ago Reagan-era battle of the budget ended in dismal failure. Notwithstanding decades of Republican speech-making about Ronald Reagan’s rebuke to ‘big government’, it never happened. Republican administrations whose slogan was ‘smaller government’ only made big government bigger. Republican hypocrisy about the evils of deficit finance was evident. Almost nobody was willing to challenge the core components that comprise big government. Thus, the giant social insurance programs of Medicare and Social Security had barely been scratched; means-tested entitlements had been modestly reformed but had saved very little money because there weren’t so many welfare queens* after all; farm subsidies and veterans’ benefits had not been cut because these were Republican voters; and the Education Department had emerged standing tall because middle-class families demanded their student loans and grants. In all, Ronald Reagan had left the ‘welfare state’ barely one-half of 1 percent of GDP smaller than that in the late 1970s, and added a massive structural deficit as well. In fact, Reagan was an out-and-out supporter of big government in the realm of the military and national security. All the well-warranted scepticism he had about big government did not apply to the Pentagon. Nor did he have any sense that money spent on defense imposed the same burden on taxpayers and drain on the economy as did all other kinds of government spending.

* welfare queens – a term used to indicate those supposedly living prosperous lives from welfare fraud


The Reagan coalition, declared dead by many commentators after 1992, proved itself quite alive in the 1994 elections. Essentially the combination of voters that had appeared at the presidential level in 1980, 1984, and 1988 reappeared in 1994 to give Republicans control of both houses of Congress for the first time in forty years. They retained this control (albeit by somewhat narrower margins) throughout the 1990s. The coalition also proved powerful enough to block most major expansions of government, or when that failed in the 1990 and 1993 tax increases, to exact a sharp revenge, first against George Bush and then against congressional Democrats. Indeed, much of what the supporters of big government have called ‘stalemate’ or ‘gridlock’ in the two decades since Reagan took office has been a consequence of the continuing power of Reagan’s new coalition to balance and block the old coalition’s appetite for bigger government. Before 1980, America lacked a strong electoral coalition for limited government. By 1988, it had one.

Every effort has been made to contact copyright holders to obtain their permission for the use of copyright material. Pearson Education Ltd. will, if notified, be happy to rectify any errors or omissions and include any such rectifications in future editions.