

Paper 1 themes and subthemes

American Option: The Origins of the Civil War, 1846–1861

Key Questions	Key Content
How and why did the outcomes of the war with Mexico 1846–48 add to sectional difficulties?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Missouri Compromise, 1820• The Wilmot Proviso, 1846• The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo, 1848• The Compromise of 1850
Why did the Compromise of 1850 break down so quickly?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implementing the Fugitive Slave Act• Implementing the Kansas-Nebraska Act• <i>Uncle Tom's Cabin</i>• The formation of the Republican party
Why did the Republicans win the 1860 presidential election?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Dred Scott judgement• The Lincoln-Douglas debates• John Brown and Harpers Ferry• The election campaign of 1860
Why did the Civil War begin in April 1861?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The results of the 1860 presidential election• The secession of the southern states• The leadership of Lincoln• The leadership of Jefferson Davis