

The Expansion of US Power from the 1840s to the 1930s

(a) Why was the concept of Manifest Destiny so influential in nineteenth-century America? [10]

(b) ‘The expansion of US naval power was the most important factor shaping the USA’s relations with Europe in the years from 1901 to 1922.’ How far do you agree? [20]

(a) Why did the USA develop close relations with Japan in the second half of the nineteenth century? [10]

(b) How far did the USA uphold the Versailles Settlement in the 1920s? [20]

(a) Why was the war with Mexico in 1846–48 important to the expansion of the USA in North America? [10]

(b) How serious a threat to the USA was the rise of Japan in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? [20]

(a) Why was the Platt Amendment agreed in 1901? [10]

(b) ‘Mr Polk’s war.’ How far do you agree with this opinion on the causes of the war with Mexico in 1846? [20]

(a) Why, between 1901 and 1934, did the USA fight the ‘banana wars’ against the small states of Central America and the Caribbean? [10]

(b) How successful was US policy towards China in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries? [20]

(a) Why did the USA lead European powers to accept the Dawes Plan of 1924? [10]

(b) How successful was ‘dollar diplomacy’ in Central America and the Caribbean in the early twentieth century? [20]

Civil War and Reconstruction, 1861–1877

- (a) Why did Southern states introduce ‘black codes’ in 1865–66? [10]
- (b) ‘Life was harsh for everyone in the South during the Civil War.’ How far do you agree? [20]

(a) Why did President Lincoln introduce a naval blockade of Southern ports at the start of the Civil War? [10]

(b) How far did President Johnson continue the Reconstruction policies of President Lincoln? [20]

(a) Why in March 1864 did President Lincoln appoint Grant as head of the Union army? [10]

(b) How far were civil liberties in the North sacrificed to the need to win the Civil War? [20]

(a) Account for the formation of the Ku Klux Klan in 1865. [10]

(b) ‘The federal nature of the Southern system of government was the main reason for the South’s weakness in waging war against the North.’ How far do you agree? [20]

(a) Why did the North experience such limited military success in 1861–62? [10]

(b) How far did Reconstruction achieve its aims? [20]

(a) Why were three constitutional amendments passed between 1865 and 1870? [10]

(b) ‘Freed slaves were given no support in the Reconstruction era.’ How far do you agree? [20]

The Gilded Age and the Progressive Era from the 1870s to the 1920s

(a) Why did the USA maintain a high tariff policy in the 1870s and 1880s? [10]

(b) How radical were the political and constitutional reforms of the Progressive Era? [20]

(a) Account for the ‘Red Scare’ in the USA in 1919–20. [10]

(b) How far did the working class benefit from industrialisation in the late nineteenth century? [20]

(a) Why were anti-trust laws introduced from the 1890s? [10]

(b) ‘The impact of the “robber barons”, such as Carnegie and Rockefeller, was beneficial to the United States.’ How far do you agree? [20]

(a) Why did it take so long for the USA to give women the right to vote? [10]

(b) How important were technological innovations to rapid industrialisation in the 1870s and 1880s? [20]

(a) Why did Progressivism emerge as a major political force in the 1890s? [10]

(b) How effectively did industrial cities address the social and economic problems they faced in the late nineteenth century? [20]

(a) Why did Theodore Roosevelt support the presidential campaign of Taft in 1908 and yet run against him in 1912? [10]

(b) ‘The USA is the great melting pot, where all races are melting and reforming.’ How accurate is this assertion about the place of immigrants in the USA in the early twentieth century? [20]

The Great Crash, the Great Depression and the New Deal, 1929–1941

(a) Why did the Roosevelt Presidency begin with ‘100 Days’ of action? [10]

(b) ‘Roosevelt’s electoral success was based more on personality than policy.’ How far do you agree? [20]

(a) Why did President Hoover struggle to deal with the impact of the Great Crash? [10]

(b) In 1932, Franklin Roosevelt was described as ‘a cautious politician’. How far did Roosevelt’s domestic policies in the 1930s support this view? [20]

(a) Why did the Great Depression last so long? [10]

(b) How far do you agree that President Hoover’s response to the Great Crash was wholly inadequate? [20]

(a) Why did the Supreme Court oppose New Deal reforms in the mid-1930s? [10]

(b) How far did Franklin Roosevelt’s economic and social policies depart from those of Herbert Hoover? [20]

(a) Why was the Tennessee Valley Authority established? [10]

(b) ‘By the late 1930s the New Deal had been destroyed by opposition.’ How far do you agree? [20]

(a) Why did right-wing conservatives oppose the New Deal? [10]

(b) Evaluate the argument that the peacetime domestic achievements of Franklin Roosevelt were not as great as is often claimed. [20]