Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

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

Wednesday 6 June 2018 – Afternoon
Extracts Booklet

Paper Reference
9HI0/1F

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Anthony S. Campagna, *The Economy in the Reagan Years: The Economic Consequences of the Reagan Administrations*, published 1994.

Inevitably, the cuts made by Reagan administrations pitted the haves against the have-nots. In their tax and spending policies, they favoured those who needed no help, and turned aside from those who did. In effect, they polarised society and began the policy of social division. Their opposition to public housing and welfare (benefiting mostly inner city blacks) was seen as racist and fuelled the black versus white chasm. Their ideas of federalism pitted states against localities, urban dwellers against suburban. Their opposition to the Equal Rights Amendment and their disregard for the needs of women, such as day-care centres that accompanied women's changing family roles, subordinated women in society. In general, their continuous criticism of welfare recipients created an atmosphere of distrust and suspicion about the non-working population from those who were employed, especially the working poor.

It is possible to overstate the case here, but there is little doubt that deep divisions were either created or made worse in the Reagan years. After all, the Reagan men were out to challenge the prevailing sentiment about the role of government in society, and it should, therefore, come as no surprise that they upset traditional habits of thinking and alienated the affected groups.

Extract 2: From George Rising, *Stuck in the Sixties: Conservatives and the Legacies of the 1960s*, published 2001.

In a presidential diary entry, Reagan denied 'trying to undo the New Deal'. What he wanted was to 'undo the Great Society*. It was LBJ's war on poverty,' he claimed, that 'led us to our present mess.' Treasury Secretary Donald T. Regan also wanted to reduce the cost of government, stating that these programmes were 'expanding every year, and in recent years they have become swollen.' Ronald Reagan superbly capitalised on anti-welfare sentiment. Reagan maintained that he wanted to retain the New Deal's 'safety net' for the deserving poor. But he fiercely condemned those people who manipulated the welfare system. For example, he frequently retold a story about a 'welfare queen from Chicago' with '80 names, 30 addresses, and 12 Social Security cards,' whose 'tax-free income alone is over $150,000.' Similarly, he often claimed that food stamps allowed 'some fellow ahead of you to buy T-bone steak,' while 'you were standing in the checkout line with your package of hamburger.' Reagan's blistering attacks on 'welfare queens' and government handouts skilfully exploited the politics of resentment. Such attacks inspired millions of working class white males, many of them southerners, to vote Republican, a lot of them for the first time.

*Great Society – the domestic policies of Lyndon Baines Johnson, which aimed to eradicate poverty and social injustice

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