Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Time 2 hours 15 minutes

Paper reference **9HI0/1F**

History

Advanced

PAPER 1: Breadth study with interpretations

Option 1F: In search of the American dream: the USA, c1917–96

Extracts Booklet

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From John Ehrman and Michael W Flamm, *Debating the Reagan Presidency*, published 2009.

Americans live in the country shaped by Ronald Reagan. The influence of free market ideas was central to almost every economic and social policy debate in America, where rapid technological change became the norm, and where prosperity was almost uninterrupted.

Perhaps the most telling measure of Reagan's success is that his successors embraced, or at least did not try to reverse, his policies of keeping taxes low and minimising Federal regulation of the economy. The Savings and Loan disaster notwithstanding, the long-term effects and benefits of Reagan's deregulation policies are difficult to overstate. As messy and painful as the deregulation process could be, the results were of great benefit to the economic miracle that occurred.

From late 1982, there began a remarkable recovery. The economy began an expansion which would last until 1990. Inflation fell by over half. Employment grew. For most Americans the Reagan years were a time of growing opportunities in living standards. Educated workers rapidly gained jobs that offered bright futures and fast-growing earnings. People of all races generally were moving up the income ladder, rather than down it. Americans lived more comfortably than ever before and enjoyed more leisure and travel opportunities.

Extract 2: From Doug Rossinow, *The Reagan Era: a History of the 1980s*, published 2015.

Reagan genuinely believed that government was a necessary evil, even at its best. Reaganites believed the privileged, not the underprivileged, had been society's victims, exploited by the welfare state and progressive taxation. As a result, in major instances of widespread suffering during his presidency, Reagan was either an indifferent bystander, such as in the AIDS crisis, or a contributor to the problem, as with the problem of homelessness.

Reagan said that, above all, he wanted the USA to remain a country where someone can always get rich. But in his actions, Reagan showed a special concern for the men who are already wealthy, unburdening the rich from taxes and business regulations. Many of his appointees took a shameless approach to government service, leading to a range of corrupt practices, criminal indictments, and military procurement scandals.

For young people in America's inner cities who experienced high levels of unemployment and poverty throughout the 1980s, Reaganism was anything but a sunny vision of the future. The criminal justice system was increasingly harsh to poor and black communities. This seemed to be how the state chose to respond to the worsening conditions in American cities in the 1980s.

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Acknowledgements

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Ectract 2 from: The Reagan Era: A History of the 1980s by Doug Rossinow © Columbia University Press, 2016