Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Wednesday 24 May 2023

Morning (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

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Bradford Martin, *The Other Eighties*, published 2011.

In Ronald Reagan's 1982 State of the Union address, facing an unprecedented $100 billion deficit and looking to combat the recession that plagued his early administration, he focused the nation's attention on welfare programmes. Reagan depicted widespread waste in the welfare system, telling anecdotes about the 'daily abuses that take place in the food stamp programme', which his aides later admitted were not fully accurate. Such episodes contributed to the lack of empathy that increasingly shaped public discussion of welfare and poverty in the 1980s, from the highest ranks of government to the general public.

The promise of Reaganomics – that fuelling the supply side would increase the prosperity of ordinary Americans – stalled, leaving most still waiting for wealth to trickle down. The Reagan era exacerbated problems in American cities. Relentless deindustrialisation moved manufacturing jobs overseas, leaving black workers lacking the training needed for employment in the service-based post-industrial economy. By 1987, black unemployment stood at more than double the white rate. Republican support for Reaganomics weakened programmes that benefitted women. Systemic issues of social and economic inequality, such as homelessness and lack of affordable health care, were widespread in the 1980s.

Extract 2: From George Tindall and David Shi, *America: A Narrative History* (7th edition), published 2007.

Although Ronald Reagan had declared in 1981 his intention to 'curb the size and influence of the federal government,' the New Deal welfare state remained intact when he left office in early 1989. Neither the Social Security system nor Medicare were dismantled or overhauled, nor were any other major welfare programmes. And the federal agencies that Reagan had threatened to abolish, such as the Department of Education, not only remained in place in 1989 but saw their budgets grow. The federal budget as a percentage of the gross domestic product was actually higher when Reagan left office than when he had entered. Moreover, he did not try to push through Congress the controversial social issues championed by the religious right, such as school prayer and a ban on abortions.

What Ronald Reagan did accomplish was to redefine the national political agenda. He excelled as a leader because he was relentlessly optimistic about America's potential and consistently committed to a philosophy of free enterprise and limited government. His greatest successes were in renewing America's soaring sense of possibilities, bringing inflation under control, and stimulating the longest sustained period of peacetime prosperity in history.

Acknowledgements

Extract 1 from: Bradford Martin, *The Other Eighties*, Hill & Wang, 2011

Extract 2 from: George Tindall and David Shi, *America: A Narrative History* (7th edition), W W. Norton & Co, 2007