Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Thursday 23 May 2024

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.

Turn over ▶

P75756A

©2024 Pearson Education Ltd.

F:1/1/1/1/1/1/1/

P 7 5 7 5 6 A

Pearson

Extracts for use with Section C.

Extract 1: From Paul Johnson, *A History of the American People*, published 1997.

Reagan made good his promise to cut taxes in 1981 and further simplified the entire tax structure in 1986. These successes acted as a powerful stimulant to business. By the beginning of 1983 the nation was in full recovery. The growth continued throughout Reagan's second term, and well into the 1990s. This was the longest continual expansion in American history. Inflation was down, unemployment fell, and interest rates were down too.

Reagan did not manage to achieve the $28 billion surplus he had aimed to achieve by 1986, and the deficit increased significantly. However, we now know that revised figures to correct flawed inflation calculations show the deficit was made to look worse than it actually was. Moreover, these revised figures also show the growth in national wealth, wage rates and family incomes. This demonstrates that the 'feel-good' atmosphere that Reagan succeeded in generating was solidly based on real improvements.

It was Reagan's aim, from the start, to restore the confidence of ordinary Americans in themselves and their country. He took clear action to reverse the decline in the presidency. Reagan's essential achievement was to restore the will and self-confidence of the American people.

Extract 2: From Walter Williams, *Reaganism and the Death of Representative Democracy*, published 2003.

Reagan had proclaimed that he would get the federal government 'off the backs' of the people. He promised that cutting taxes deeply, deregulating business and devolving power to the states would mean that the nation would flourish again. The reality was very different. The economy surged so mightily in the 1990s despite, not because of, Reagan's anti-government approach and free market fundamentalism. Additionally, the influence of money in politics prevailed, as members of Congress paid more attention to the wishes of corporate America than they did to their constituents. Government for the wealthiest citizens and major corporations had replaced government for ordinary citizens.

Reagan's new political view of minimal government dominated the last two decades of the twentieth century. The reality of this meant a severe weakening of the federal government and became a major barrier to the reform of the American political system. The weakening of federal government also significantly increased the likelihood of the USA developing unsound policies, mismanaging new and existing programs, and failing to achieve the nation's most important domestic policy goals. The harm inflicted by Reaganism on the critical institutions of government thus undermined the U.S. political system and turned the federal government away from the major domestic policy problems facing the nation.

BLANK PAGE

Acknowledgements

Extract 1 from: A History Of The American People by Paul Johnson ©Orion Publishing Group, October 1997.

Extract 2 from:Reaganism and the Death of Representative Democracy by Walter Williams © Georgetown University Press, August 2003.