Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Friday 9 June 2023

Afternoon (Time: 1 hour 30 minutes)

Paper reference **9HI0/2H**

History

Advanced

PAPER 2: Depth study

Option 2H.1: The USA, c1920–55: boom, bust and recovery

Option 2H.2: The USA, 1955–92: conformity and challenge

Source Booklet

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Sources for use with Section A.

Answer the question in Section A on the option for which you have been prepared.

Option 2H.1: The USA, c1920–55: boom, bust and recovery

Sources for use with Question 1.

Source 1: From Gordon Parks, *The Hawk Has Come*, published 1969. Parks was a photographer, author and filmmaker. As a 16-year-old boy in 1929, he had been paying for his own private high school education by working part time at an exclusive social club. Here he recounts events that changed his life in Minnesota in October 1929.

When I arrived at work on a Wednesday afternoon in October, I found a puzzling notice pinned to the staff noticeboard. It read:

'Because of unforeseen circumstances, some personnel will be laid off from the first day of next month. Those affected will be notified in due course – The Management'.

I changed into my uniform, wondering what had happened.

By Thursday (24 October), the whole world knew. 'MARKET CRASHES—PANIC HITS NATION!' one headline blared. The newspapers were full of stories about the crash. I read everything I could get my hands on, grasping the full meaning of such terms as 'Black Thursday', 'deflation' and 'depression'.

I couldn't imagine this financial disaster touching my small world; it surely concerned only the rich. But by the first week of November, I knew differently. Along with millions of others across the nation, I was without a job. All that week, I searched for any kind of work that would prevent my having to leave school. Again, it was: 'We're firing, not hiring'. Finally, on 7 November, I went to school and cleared out my locker, knowing it was impossible to stay on. A piercing chill was in the air as I walked back to the school boarding house.

Source 2: From Meridel Le Sueur, *Women on the Breadlines*, published 1932. Le Sueur's eyewitness accounts recorded the struggle of poor women in Minnesota during the Depression.

I am sitting in the city employment bureau. We sit here every day, waiting for a job. There are no jobs. Most of us have had no breakfast. Some have had meagre rations for over a year. Is there any place else in the world where a human being is supposed to go hungry amidst plenty without protest, where only the boldest steal or kill for bread? We sit looking at the floor. No one dares think of the coming winter. We look down. It's too terrible to see this terror in each other's eyes.

Most of the women who come here are middle-aged, some have families, some have men who are out of work. In hard times, the man leaves to hunt for work. He doesn't find it. The woman probably doesn't hear from him for a long time. She struggles alone to feed many mouths. Sometimes there is help available from charities. If she's willing to accept it, she can live decently. If she's too proud to accept it, she starves silently, coming home after a day's searching for work to wrestle with housework and her children.

Thousands of farms have been abandoned in Minnesota. There is a mass departure of girls from the farms into the city. There are young girls here at the employment bureau, recently arrived from the countryside. The prettier ones can get jobs in the few jobs available in stores, or waiting on table, but these jobs are only for the attractive.

2H.2: The USA, 1955–92: conformity and challenge

Sources for use with Question 2.

Source 3: From an account given by Stephen Hess to an American news magazine, published 2007. Hess served as a Republican member of the White House staff in the years 1969–72. Here he recalls the debate within the Republican Party about events leading to President Nixon's resignation.

In a 1973 interview, Senator Barry Goldwater, a former Republican presidential candidate, said, 'If it can be proved that Nixon lied, resignation would have to be considered. It would be quick. It wouldn't drag out like impeachment.'

It took some time before Goldwater saw the need for the President to leave. Yet it became clear that Nixon was a lost cause. On 27 July 1974, the House Judiciary Committee passed its first article of impeachment.

Under pressure from the Supreme Court, the White House released the transcript of the 'smoking gun' tape – conversations recorded just days after the Watergate burglary that made clear that Nixon had tried to cover up the bugging attempt.

On 6 August 1974, at the regular Senate Republican lunch, Goldwater said angrily: 'There are only so many lies you can take, and there has been one too many. Nixon should get his backside out of the White House – today!'

Goldwater told a White House adviser to inform Nixon that many Republican senators wanted Nixon's resignation. Nixon agreed to meet Goldwater and Republican Senate leader, Hugh Scott.

'There's only 15 senators supporting you,' Goldwater said. Nixon asked Scott for his views. 'I think 12 to 15,' said Scott, who had previously defended Nixon on the basis of an edited transcript of a Watergate tape that had been shown to him privately.

Nixon's career was made by Congress. The folks who came and told him that he had to leave were the same folks who, in a sense, made him.

Source 4: From *The Memoirs of Richard Nixon*, published 1978. Here Nixon comments on his decision made on 8 August 1974 to resign the presidency.

Over the past months, I had discussed resignation with my family and advisers. I had rejected it. I believed that my resignation under pressure would change our whole form of government. Once one president had been forced to resign, opponents of future presidents would have formidable new power. Congress, confronted with a president it did not like, could block his policies. Then, when the country was fed up with the resulting stalemate, Congress could claim it would be better for America if the president resigned. And Nixon would be cited as the justification!

My impeachment would not be decided on the basis of law. It would be based on a series of speeches that would persuade the public that I had to be removed. As well as the political opposition, there was also the enemy within: the tapes. The biggest danger I saw was that the Special Prosecutor would begin requesting more and more tapes.

I called my Press Secretary, Ron Ziegler, for an account of the morning news. He said that the 23 June tape was damning and reckoned Congress would vote to convict me. So, I had no choice. Ziegler came over to discuss my resignation speech.

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Acknowledgements:

Source 1 from: Children of the Great Depression By Russell Freedman © Clarion Books, 2005

Source 2 from: http://historymuse.net/readings/womenonbreadline.html

Source 3 from: https://www.politico.com/story/2007/02/when-the-gop-torpedoed-nixon-002680
https://www.politico.com/news/magazine/2020/01/22/trump-impeachment-watergate-barry-goldwater-101836

Source 4 from: The Memoirs of Richard Nixon By Grosset & Dunlap, 1979