Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

Thursday 12 June 2025

Morning (Time: 2 hours 15 minutes)

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History

Advanced

PAPER 3: Themes in breadth with aspects in depth

Option 39.1: Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1850–2009

Option 39.2: Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004

Sources Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

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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 39.1: Civil rights and race relations in the USA, 1850–2009

Source for use with Question 1.

Source 1: From the opinion of Justice John Marshall Harlan regarding the case of Plessy v. Ferguson, issued May 1896. Here Harlan is discussing the ruling of his fellow Supreme Court justices.

The ruling in Plessy v. Ferguson is inconsistent with equality of rights of citizenship and with the personal liberty enjoyed by everyone within the USA.

The Thirteenth Amendment did not permit withholding any right of freedom. It not only halted the institution of slavery but it prevented the imposition of any laws that constitute slavery by another name. The Fourteenth Amendment greatly advanced the authority of American citizenship and personal liberty by declaring that 'No state shall deny to any person the equal protection of the laws'. These two Amendments, if enforced according to their true intent, will protect all the civil rights of freedom and citizenship.

Finally, so that no citizen should be denied because of his race the privilege of participating in the democratic system, the Fifteenth Amendment declared that 'the right of citizens to vote shall not be limited by the USA or by any state on account of race, colour, or previous servitude.'

These notable Amendments were welcomed by the friends of liberty worldwide. They removed the race issue from our governmental systems. In 1883, this Court confirmed that 'the law in the states shall be the same for black as for white; that all persons shall stand equal before the law, that no discrimination shall be made against them by law because of their colour.'

In the eyes of the law, there is in this country no superior ruling class of citizens. Our constitution is colour blind, and does not tolerate different status among citizens. In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law. The separation of citizens on the basis of race, while they are on public transport, is a sign of servitude wholly inconsistent with the civil rights established by the Constitution. It cannot be justified upon any legal grounds.

The ruling in this case will poison relations between the races. Nothing can more certainly arouse race hate and distrust between races, than a state law, namely the 1890 Separate Car Act, that ignores the Constitutional Amendments. For the Act, and a number of our other state laws, assume that Black Americans are so inferior and dishonoured that they cannot be allowed to sit in public coaches occupied by white citizens.

Option 39.2: Mass media and social change in Britain, 1882–2004

Source for use with Question 2.

Source 2: From 'Yesterday's Britain', a collection of articles published by *Reader's Digest* magazine, 1998. *Reader's Digest* stated that it offered 'knowledge, positivity and humour' on subjects such as health, money and culture. Here the author recalls the impact of watching British television during the 1960s.

Television advertising painted a portrait of a perfect modern Britain. Advertisements presented an image of an ordered society in which life revolved around home and family. Here was a devoted wife, who always used two Oxo cubes to make a gravy that gave a meal 'man appeal'. Then she sat down to watch her husband drown his roast dinner in gravy. Men drove fast cars, smoked cigars and braved terrifying dangers, James Bond-style, 'all because the lady loved Milk Tray' chocolates.

Television not only reinforced stereotypes but also changed childhood. Parents found their children spending more time indoors, watching children's programmes. *The Magic Roundabout*, appropriately, appealed to both children and adults. The adults appreciated the barely-concealed glorification of the Swinging Sixties through Dylan, the spaced-out rabbit, and Zebedee, the 'thing-on-a-spring' whose role it was to announce it was time for bed.

Television advertising took an even stronger hold on the national consciousness through catchphrases better known than the products they promoted. The device of subverting language to suggest messages to our memories had language teachers despairing, as 'Beanz Meanz Heinz' joined 'drinka pinta milka day' on their most-hated list.

Television mirrored society, and no programme provided a clearer reflection of the nation than *Coronation Street*. It prompted a genuine sense of community throughout Britain, since millions watched it and gossiped about it. Elsie Tanner, one of the star characters in the show, was like everybody's next-door neighbour. A programme that cast a more sinister light on Britain was the sitcom *Till Death Us Do Part*, starring Warren Mitchell as the racist bigot, Alf Garnett. It was satire but it was very close to the truth. The extent of racist feeling in Britain became clear after Enoch Powell, a Tory MP, made an inflammatory, widely televised speech. In it, he voiced the fears of many Britons who, twenty years after the arrival of the post-war West Indian immigrants, still felt that to be British meant to be white. Yet, whether the Alf Garnetts liked it or not, Britain was now a multicultural society.

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Acknowledgements:

Source 1 from: https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/plessy-v-ferguson

Source 2 from: *Yesterday's Britain* © Reader's Digest, 1998