

What has been on the exam papers so far up to Summer 2022

(we are going to do Summer 2023 in class)

Sample A2 Paper 1

Q1 Interpretations on US isolationism between the wars

Essays: To what extent was the rapid westward expansion of the United States in the years 1865-1890 due to the influence of ideas of 'Manifest Destiny'?

AND 'US involvement in the First and Second World Wars caused fundamental changes in American society between 1917 and 1945. Assess the validity of this view.

AND 'Between 1945 and 1968 it became clear that the United States was a deeply divided nation.' Assess the validity of this view.

Sample A2 Paper 2

Q1 Interpretations on the achievements of President Eisenhower

Essays: Between the end of the Civil War and 1890, the position of African Americans in the United States significantly improved.

AND 'The Republican Party dominated American politics in the years 1868-1912 because it was the party of big business.' Assess the validity of this view.

AND 'The policies of US presidents had very little impact on the boom, bust and recovery of the American economy in the years 1920-1945.' Assess the validity of this view.

2016 AS (There was no A2 this year – so only 2 essays to choose from)

Interpretations on the reasons for American imperialism in the years 1890 to 1914.

Essays: 'Divisions within the Democratic Party enabled the Republican Party to dominate US politics in the years 1896-1912.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

AND 'The rapid growth of the US economy in the years 1865-1890 was due to the expansion of the railroads.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

2017 AS (Not A2 – so only 2 essays to choose from)

Interpretations on Progressivism

Essays: 'Reconstruction failed to bring equality to African-Americans in the years 1865-1877.' Explain why you agree or disagree.

AND 'The development of the American economy in the years 1890 to 1914 was due to the open immigration policy of the United States.' Explain why you agree or disagree.

2017 A2:

Interpretations on the US economy in the second half of the 19th century.

Essays: To what extent had any progress made by African-Americans during Radical Reconstruction been lost by 1890?

AND 'US foreign policy in the years 1919-1941 was based on isolationism.' Assess the validity of this view.

AND To what extent can the US policy of containment in Asia in the years 1945-1975 be described as a success?

2018 AS (Not A2 – so only 2 essays to choose from)

Interpretations on the divisions in the West in the late 19th century.

Essays: 'The presidents of the Gilded Age were weak.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

AND 'In the years to 1920, the USA remained a divided society.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view of the USA in the early 20th century.

2018 A2

Interpretations on the presidents of the Gilded Age.

Essays: To what extent was American imperialism motivated by issues of national security in the years 1890-1920.

AND 'Women made little progress toward achieving equality from 1920-1945. Assess the validity of this view.

AND 'The years 1945-1964 were a time of strong economic growth and prosperity for all Americans.' Assess the validity of this view.

2019 AS (Not A2 – so only 2 essays to choose from)

Interpretations on the impact of the railways in the second half of the 19th century.

Essays: 'Economic and social divisions between the North and the South were resolved in the years 1865-1890.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

AND 'Wilson's 'New Freedom' was based entirely on Roosevelt's reforms.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

2019 A2

Interpretations on US government economic policies from 1929-1945

Essays: 'Laissez-faire policies, in the years 1865-1890 were economically damaging.' Assess the validity of this view.

AND 'The immigration acts of the early 1920s were the result of social tensions arising from immigration since the 1890s.' Assess the validity of this view.

AND How successful were attempts by US governments, in the years 1955-1975, to reduce Cold War tensions?

2020 AS (Not A2 – so only 2 essays to choose from)

Interpretations on African Americans, 1890 – 1920

Essays: 'The failure of Radical Reconstruction, in the years 1865 to 1877, was due to the weaknesses of the Federal Government.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

AND 'US foreign policy remained isolationist throughout the years 1867 to 1902.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

2020 A2

Interpretations on influences shaping US international relations in the years 1865 to 1890.

Essays: To what extent did the growth of the US economy, in the years 1890 to 1920, benefit the American people?

AND 'There was very little improvement in the lives of African-Americans in the years 1920 to 1941.' Assess the validity of this view.

AND 'Throughout the years 1945 to 1968, all US Presidents were committed to reform in domestic politics.' Assess the validity of this view.

2021 A2

Interpretations about the changes in American society in the years 1945 to 1975.

Essays: To what extent was there effective cooperation between President and Congress in the years 1865 to 1890?

AND 'Populism had significant influence on national politics in the years 1890 to 1912.' Assess the validity of this view of Populism.

AND In the years 1920 to 1945, to what extent was FD Roosevelt's approach to international relations different from that of his Republican predecessors?

2022 AS (Not A2 – so only 2 essays to choose from)

Interpretations on US foreign policy, 1890 to 1917

Essays: 'In the years 1865 to 1890, the American West remained lawless and deeply divided.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

AND 'In the years 1896 to 1912, Republican political dominance was due to the weaknesses of the Democratic Party.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

2022 A2

Interpretations on American society in the 1920s and 1930s.

Essays: 'The years 1865 to 1896 were a time of significant progress for former slaves in America's southern states.' Assess the validity of this view.

AND To what extent was Wilson's New Freedom a continuation of Theodore Roosevelt's reforms?

AND 'In the years 1945 to 1968, the growth of the US economy was entirely due to an increase in consumer demand.'

Common Themes

1. Reconstruction
2. The Gilded Age presidents
3. Foreign policy at any given time 1865 - 1975
4. Economy at any given time 1865-1975 and reasons for it – consumer demand, does everyone benefit, government policies etc
5. The Progressive era presidents
6. The divisions within society/social tensions - need to be able to break 'society' down into groups e.g. African Americans, Women, Native Americans, Rural citizens, Urban citizens, Immigrants etc...
7. The impact of the populists on elections.
8. The development of the West and migration West
9. The plight of African Americans across the whole period but particularly during Reconstruction.
10. Presidents and their domestic policies.
11. Role of the federal government.
12. Weaknesses of the Democrat Party
13. Dominance of the Republican Party
14. Impact of World War One and World War Two

15. Presidents and Congress – Clash or Unity?