

A SELECTION OF USA ESSAY QUESTIONS

USA, 1865 – 1920

Remember: 45 minutes and 25 marks for one essay

1. 'Reconstruction in the years 1865-77 failed because of Republican opposition'. Assess the validity of this view.
2. To what extent had the weaknesses of the federal government in 1865 been overcome by 1890?
3. 'The railroads were the key to the expansion of the American economy in the years 1865 – 90'. Assess the validity of this view.
4. To what extent was the rapid westward expansion of the United States in the years 1865 to 1890 due to the influence of ideas of 'Manifest Destiny'.
5. Between the end of the Civil War and 1890, the position of African Americans in the United States significantly improved.' Assess the validity of this view.
6. The greatest threat to the position of African Americans in the South in the years 1865-90 was formal segregation. Assess the validity of this view.
7. 'In the years 1865 - 1890, America was a deeply divided country'. Assess the validity of this view.
8. 'In the years 1888 to 1900, the Democratic Party was badly weakened by the rise of Populism.' Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.
9. To what extent was the regulation of big business the most important achievement of the Progressive Movement in the years 1890-1912?
10. 'Wilson was the most progressive of the American presidents in the years 1890 – 1920'. Assess the validity of this view.
11. 'Laissez faire policies were the reason why the American economy expanded so rapidly between 1890-1914'. Assess the validity of this view.
12. 'The main reason for the growth of the US economy, 1890 - 1920 was technological change.' Assess the validity of this view
13. 'Mercantilism (trade) was the main driving force behind the USA's foreign policy between 1890 and 1914'. How far do you agree?
14. To what extent was the USA isolationist in the years 1865 to 1890.