

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS
General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Level and Advanced Level

HISTORY

9697/05

Paper 5 The History of the USA, c.1840–1968

October/November 2004

Additional Materials: Answer Booklet/Paper

3 hours

READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

If you have been given an Answer Booklet, follow the instructions on the front cover of the Booklet.
Write your Centre number, candidate number and name on all the work you hand in.
Write in dark blue or black pen on both sides of the paper.
You may use a soft pencil for any diagrams, graphs or rough working.
Do not use staples, paper clips, highlighters, glue or correction fluid.

Answer **four** questions.

You must answer **Question 1** (Section A) and any **three** questions from Section B.

At the end of the examination, fasten all your work securely together.

All questions in this paper carry equal marks.

SECTION A: The Road to Secession and Civil War, 1846–61

You **must** answer Question 1.

THE ECONOMIC INTERPRETATION OF THE CIVIL WAR

1 Read the sources and then answer the question.

SOURCE A

You use slavery as a blind to delude the unwary. What do you propose, gentlemen of the Free-Soil party? Do you propose to better the condition of the slaves? Not at all! You say you are opposed to the expansion of slavery, but how are the slaves to benefit from this? It is not humanity which influences you; it is so that you may have an opportunity of cheating us of our property. You want to limit slavery so that you may have a majority in Congress and so convert the national government into an engine of Northern aggression. Then you will be able to grow in prosperity upon wealth unjustly taken from the South. You desire to weaken the power of the Southern states and why? Because you want by an unjust system of legislation to promote the industry of New England at the expense of the people of the South and their industry.

Jefferson Davis (later President of the Confederate States of America), speech to US Senate, 1856.

Source B

Our country is a theatre which exhibits in full operation two radically different political systems: the one resting on the basis of servile labour, the other on the basis of voluntary labour of free men. Hitherto the two systems have existed in different States, but side by side within the Union. These antagonistic systems are continually coming into closer conflict, and collision results.

Shall I tell you what this collision means? They who think it is accidental, unnecessary, the work of fanatical agitators, mistake the case altogether. It is an irrepressible conflict between opposing and enduring forces, and it means that the United States must and will sooner or later become either entirely a slave-holding nation or entirely a free-labour nation.

William H. Seward, speech at Rochester, New York, 25 October 1858.

Source C

The issue embraces more than the fate of these United States. It presents the question whether a constitutional republic or democracy – a government of the people by the people – can or cannot maintain its territorial integrity against its own domestic foes. It presents the question whether discontented individuals, too few in number to control administration according to the Constitution, can always, upon the pretences made here, or on any other pretences, or arbitrarily without any pretence, break up their government, and thus practically put an end to free government upon the earth. It forces us to ask: is there in all republics this inherent and fatal weakness? Must a government, of necessity, be too strong for the liberties of its own people, or too weak to maintain its own existence?

It is now for the people to demonstrate to the world that those who can fairly carry an election can also suppress a rebellion; that ballots are the rightful and peaceful successors of bullets; and that when ballots have fairly and constitutionally decided, there can be no successful appeal back to bullets.

Abraham Lincoln, Message to the Special Session of Congress, 4 July 1861.

Source D

The contest which ended in the War was indeed a contest between opposing principles, but not as bore upon the rights or wrongs of African slavery. They involved the very nature and structure of government itself. They were a contest between the supporters of a strictly Federal Government on the one side and a thoroughly National one on the other.

Alexander H. Stephens (Vice-President of the Confederate States of America) in his memoirs, 1868.

Source E

The Civil War was simply a conflict between two different systems of economic production to seize control of the national government. The Northern capitalists wanted it to collect tariffs, build railroads, shoot down workers, protect monopoly trusts, and in short to further the interest of their class. The Southern slave owners wanted it to secure free trade, hunt down fugitive slaves, to conquer new territory for cotton fields, and to maintain the supremacy of King Cotton. To say that the Civil War was waged to abolish slavery is but to repeat a tale invented almost a decade after the war was ended as a means of gratifying the party of capitalism, the Republican Party, and maintaining its supremacy.

An American historian's analysis of the causes of the Civil War, 1906.

Now answer the following question.

'The sectional conflict which led to the Civil War was about the clash of competing economic interests and not the rights and wrongs of slavery.' Using Sources A – E, discuss how far the evidence supports this explanation of the causes of the Civil War.

SECTION B

You must answer **three** questions from this section.

- 2 Why was it that the 1850 Compromise had started to unravel by 1856?
- 3 'The victory of the Union in the Civil War was inevitable.' How far do you agree with this view?
- 4 Evaluate the effectiveness of Progressivism on the United States politically, socially and economically from 1901 to 1916.
- 5 Account for the dramatic rise and fall of the revived Ku Klux Klan in the 1920s.
- 6 Why was opposition to the New Deal so fierce?
- 7 To what extent were Roosevelt's policies towards the 'aggressor states' between 1933 and 1941 weak and ineffective?
- 8 How far is it true to say that there was an 'urban crisis' in America by 1968?