



UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE INTERNATIONAL EXAMINATIONS  
International General Certificate of Secondary Education

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**AMERICAN HISTORY (US)**

**0409/02**

Paper 2 Defining Moments

**May/June 2013**

INSERT

**1 hour 30 minutes**

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**READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST**

This Insert contains two sections:

Section A: The American Civil War, 1861–1865 (pages 2–4)

Section B: America in Vietnam (pages 5–7)

You are required to answer **all** the questions in **one** section. Study the sources for the section you have chosen. The time needed to do this is allowed for within the time set for the examination.

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This document consists of **7** printed pages and **1** blank page.



## Section A: The American Civil War, 1861–1865

## SOURCE A



*From "Punch", a magazine published in England, June 7, 1862.*

## SOURCE B

We made a fine run across the Atlantic but were too late for the tide so we lay in the fog out to sea. The fog cleared and there was a Yankee bearing down on us. Away we went and she after us, her shot falling close. She gained on us so we had to throw the cargo of 150 barrels of gunpowder overboard to lighten the ship. Twelve blockaders lay ahead but we made a dash for port. The Yankees opened fire on us but the fort replied, keeping them at bay until we were safely in. We had no trouble in coming out again.

*From an article entitled 'An Exciting Chase' in 'The Daily Despatch', Richmond, capital of the Confederate States, June 5, 1863. The article refers to the 'Cornubia' which had sailed from Liverpool, England.*

## SOURCE C



*A pencil sketch of fighting near Winchester, Virginia, March 1862, by Alfred Waud. The artist drew the picture at the scene of the battle at which he was an eyewitness.*

**SOURCE D**

As you advanced, people north of us and many from the city itself moved south so the country there is already crowded. Without housing to accommodate people, they are staying in churches and other outbuildings. How is it possible for the people still here (mostly women and children) to find shelter and how can they live through the winter in the woods? You know the woe, the horror, and the suffering cannot be described by words. Why should these helpless people be driven from their homes, to wander as outcasts?

*From a complaint by the mayor and city council of Atlanta, Georgia, to General Sherman, September 11, 1864. Their letter was written in response to Sherman's order on September 7 that the civilian population of the city should be evacuated.*

**SOURCE E**

My orders were to destroy all that was useful in war to an enemy but to spare harmless private property. The Confederate General, Wade Hampton, ordered that all cotton should be moved into the streets and fired to prevent us making use of it. The fires were fanned by the wind. About dark they began to spread beyond the control of those on duty in the city. My generals and troops labored to save houses and protect families. I deny any blame for this fire but, on the contrary, claim we saved what of Columbia remains unconsumed.

*From the report of General Sherman, April 4, 1865, to his superiors. The city of Columbia, South Carolina, had been burned to the ground on the night of February 17.*

**SOURCE F**

You feel it, though the occasion is mournful, that it is good to be here. You feel that it was an event of huge hope for the country that the men of the East, and the men of the West, the men of nineteen sister states stood side by side on the perilous ridges of the battle. God bless the Union; it is dearer to us for the blood of brave men which has been shed in its defence. I intend no injustice to the other noble achievements of the war, which have reflected such honor on both arms of the service, and have entitled the armies and the navy of the United States to the warmest thanks and the richest rewards which a grateful people can pay. But they, I am sure, will join us in saying, as we bid farewell to the dust of these martyr-heroes, that, wheresoever throughout the civilised world the accounts of this great warfare are read in the glorious annals of our common country, there will be no brighter page than that which relates to the Battle of Gettysburg.

*From the speech delivered by Edward Everett, November 19, 1863, at the dedication of the cemetery for those killed at Gettysburg in July the same year. Everett was the most celebrated orator of his time. The climax of his speech, given above, was reached after he had been speaking for two hours.*

## Section B: America in Vietnam

## SOURCE A



*A Vietcong poster, used in the late 1960s, shows their men in the undergrowth and U.S. soldiers in the clearing. Propaganda was effective in uniting opposition to America.*

## SOURCE B

The sonic roar of the B-52 explosions tore eardrums; the shock waves knocked victims senseless. The bomb craters were gigantic and, in the lowland areas, would fill with water. Frequently, some surprised guerrilla was suddenly swallowed up. The first few times I experienced a B-52 attack it seemed that I had been caught in the Apocalypse. The terror was complete. One lost control of bodily functions as the mind screamed incomprehensible orders to get out. We were all veterans of the same symptoms. When it was over no one had been hurt.

*From 'A Vietcong Memoir' by Truong Nhu Tang, published in 1985. He was a founder of the Vietcong.*

**SOURCE C**

We can no longer do the job we set out to do in the time we have left and we must take steps to disengage. Time is limited by reactions in America. We cannot build an independent South Vietnam; therefore, we should do something by no later than late summer to establish something different. The issue is can we by military means keep the North Vietnamese off the South Vietnamese. I do not think we can. They can slip around them and end-run them and crack them up.

*From the advice of Dean Acheson to President Johnson, March 26, 1968.  
The former Secretary of State (1949–53) voiced these views at a meeting  
of senior advisors, or 'wise men', called by the President to assess  
the situation after the Tet Offensive.*

**SOURCE D**

In the end, anybody who was still in that country was the enemy. The same village you'd gone in to give them medical treatment you could go through later and get shot at by a sniper. Go back in and you would not find anybody. Nobody knew anything. We were trying to work with these people but they were basically doing a number on us. You didn't trust them anymore. You didn't trust anybody.

*From an interview with Frederick Widmer, a U.S. soldier, 1969.  
He was at My Lai at the time of the massacre there in 1968.*

**SOURCE E**

*A U.S. soldier uses his cigarette lighter to set fire to a Vietnamese villager's hut, 1969.*

**SOURCE F**

There has been a good deal of exaggeration about U.S. atrocities in Vietnam, exaggeration not about their extent but their causes. Communists were ruthless and atrocities were as common to the battlefield as shell craters. Men who do not expect to receive mercy eventually lose their inclination to grant it. Some of the worst crimes were acts of retribution for friends who had been killed. The stress of guerrilla fighting created emotional pressure which built to such a point that a trivial provocation could make men explode. Others were made pitiless by an overpowering greed for survival. The policy of attrition affected our behavior. Our mission was not to win terrain but simply to kill. Soldiers lived and fought in terrible conditions imposed by climate and country. There was nothing familiar out there; no restraining influences. Most American soldiers possessed in roughly equal measure both good and bad qualities.

*From 'A Rumor of War' by Philip Caputo, a journalist, published in 1977.  
The author had served as a Lieutenant in the U.S. Marine Corps in  
South Vietnam, 1965–66.*

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