

AS HISTORY

The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980

Component 2Q Prosperity, inequality and Superpower status, 1945–1963

Monday 19 May 2025

Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/2Q.
- Answer **two** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 50 minutes on Section A
 - 40 minutes on Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From a private letter to Richard Simon from President Eisenhower, 4 April 1956. Simon was a friend of Eisenhower.

We are rapidly getting to the point where there would be no winners in a war between America and the USSR. When both sides know that they will destroy each other, we may have enough sense to meet at the conference table with the understanding that the era of armaments has ended and the human race must conform to this truth or die. I do not deny the need for strength. But that strength must be spiritual, economic and military. All three are important and are not mutually exclusive. They are all part of, and the product of, the American genius and the American will but we have already come to the point where safety cannot be assumed by arms alone. 5

Source B

From a speech to Congress on the situation in the Middle East by President Eisenhower, 5 January 1957.

The action which I propose would have the following features.

1. It would authorize the United States to cooperate with and assist any nation or group of nations in the general area of the Middle East in the development of economic strength dedicated to the maintenance of national independence.
2. It would authorize the Executive to undertake, in the same region, programs of military assistance and cooperation with any nation or group of nations which desires such aid. 5
3. It would authorize assistance and cooperation to include the employment of the armed forces of the United States to secure and protect the territory and political independence of nations requesting aid against armed aggression from any nation controlled by International Communism. 10

0 1

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining Eisenhower's attitude to military conflict?

[25 marks]

Section B

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

Either

0	2
---	---

'The USA was a deeply divided country in the five years following the end of the Second World War.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

or

0	3
---	---

'It was pressure from Martin Luther King that forced President Kennedy to take action concerning Civil Rights.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

Copyright information

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from www.aqa.org.uk

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2025 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

