Cambridge Assessment International Education

Cambridge O Level

HISTORY **2147/22**

Paper 2 **October/November 2020**

2 hours

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** the questions on **one** option only.
  - Option A: Nineteenth century topic
  - Option B: Twentieth century topic
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [ ].

This document has **16** pages. Blank pages are indicated.

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Option A: Nineteenth century topic

WAS JOHN BROWN A REAL THREAT TO THE SOUTH?

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

Background Information

On 16 October 1859 John Brown led a group of armed men in an attack on the federal arsenal at Harpers Ferry. He planned to use the twenty thousand weapons in the arsenal to equip slaves, who, he hoped, would rise up in rebellion against slavery. Brown managed to gain control of the armoury but on 18 October ninety US Marines arrived and Brown and his men were soon either captured or killed. Brown was charged with treason against the state of Virginia, tried and hanged.

The raid at Harpers Ferry caused near hysteria amongst some in the South. They claimed that Brown's actions were part of a large, well-organised and well-financed insurrection against slave-owning states and the institution of slavery. They feared that slaves were about to rise up against their masters. Others, especially in the North, regarded Brown as a well-intentioned madman who had little support and had acted alone. Was Brown a real threat?

SOURCE A

A mural entitled 'Tragic Prelude', from the late 1930s. It shows John Brown in Kansas during the 1850s. The book in his hand is the Bible. A prelude is an event that is an introduction to something more important.

SOURCE B

It would be difficult to find anything more absurd than John Brown assuming the character of Commander-in-Chief of a Provisional Government and expecting, at the head of an army of seventeen white men and three negroes, to start a great revolution, and by the bold strike of seizing the arsenal at Harpers Ferry, to bring about the abolition of slavery. However, in spite of his delusions and the absurdity of his enterprises, he deserves our respect for his display of the noblest qualities of human nature.

John Brown seems to have infected the people of Virginia with delusion. Despite Brown and his cooperators being killed or in prison, Virginia remains strongly impressed with the idea of a grand army of slave liberators dispersed along her borders, while still another grand army of desperate Abolitionists is expected from the North to storm the jail at Charlestown, to liberate Brown and place him at their head. The burning of two or three barns has been accepted as proof of the approach of this liberating army.

From a New York newspaper, 19 November 1859.

SOURCE C

On Friday last, one of the most evil schemes was brought to light. A large body of whites and blacks took possession of the US arsenal at Harpers Ferry, murdering and imprisoning the citizens at will. It turned out to be an Abolition movement, led by the notorious John Brown, who told his fanatical followers that the negroes would join them by their thousands, and that Maryland and Virginia would become free States. The rebellion has been put down and the ringleaders shot. The party originally consisted of 32 persons of whom fifteen are killed.

The originator of this insurrection was Captain John Brown, whose connection with the scenes of violence in the warfare of Kansas made his name notorious to the whole country. In the coat of one of the men killed was found a Captain's commission signed by 'John Brown, Commander-in-Chief of the Army of the Provisional Government of the United States'. This insurrection is the result of the preachings of the vile families in the North. It is the first step toward carrying out Seward's idea of the 'irrepressible conflict which is sooner or later to ensue between the slave and free States'. This damnable plot should awaken the conservative people of the North to the inevitable results of listening to the vile shrieks of the fanatics of the free States. We rejoice that the bloody scheme has been foiled. May all such movements be crushed just as quickly.

From a Northern newspaper, 22 October 1859.

SOURCE D

A print published in New York, 1863. It shows Brown leaving jail on his way to his execution. The artist has shown Brown about to kiss a black child as described at the time in a Northern newspaper. However, most accounts say that only soldiers were present when Brown left the jail. Behind Brown is the flag of the state of Virginia. The words on the flag say 'Thus always to tyrants'. In the bottom left, is a statue of Justice with its arms and scales broken.

SOURCE E

A cartoon published in 'Harper's Weekly' magazine, 26 November 1859, soon after the raid at Harpers Ferry. The magazine was published in New York. It supported the Union and took a moderate position on slavery. John Brown is saying, 'Here! Take this, and follow me. My name's Brown.' The slave replies, 'Please God! Mr Brown, that is impossible. We haven't finished planting yet at our house.'

SOURCE F

An illustration published in November 1859 soon after the raid at Harpers Ferry. It is entitled 'A Southern Planter Arming His Slaves To Resist Invasion'. The artist was a native Virginian who supported slavery.

SOURCE G

Why will the newspapers persist in calling the events at Harpers Ferry an 'Insurrection' among negroes? There was no insurrection, and it is a libel upon the slaves in calling it as such. They had nothing whatever to do with it. The original insurgents consisted of fifteen white men and half a dozen free negroes from the North. Most slaves refused to take up arms against their masters – the only friends they knew. A few were forced into it by threats of death, and even then only a few joined the blood-thirsty, demented fanatics of the North in their treasonable work. We think the slaves in the Harpers Ferry region deserve credit for the manner in which they behaved.

Of course, as long as we in the South continue to call the affair an Insurrection, we will be playing into the hands of the North. They wanted it to be seen in that light as it makes it appear that slaves are dissatisfied with their way of life and want to change it. They then have an excuse for invading Southern territory. Slaves, however, honour and obey their masters.

From a Southern newspaper, 26 October 1859.

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Now answer **all** the following questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Source A.

What impressions of John Brown does this source give? Explain your answer using details of the source. [7]

2 Study Sources B and C.

How far do these two sources agree? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

3 Study Source D.

Why was this print published at this time? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

4 Study Sources E and F.

Does Source E make Source F surprising? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

5 Study Source G.

How useful is this source to a historian studying the raid at Harpers Ferry? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

6 Study **all** the sources.

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that John Brown was a real threat to the South? Use the sources to explain your answer. [12]

Option B: Twentieth century topic

WAS THE USA RIGHT TO BECOME INVOLVED IN VIETNAM?

Study the Background Information and the sources carefully, and then answer **all** the questions.

Background Information

The increasing involvement of the USA in Vietnam was gradual. In 1950 President Truman sent money, weapons and a few military officers to help the French. After the division of Vietnam in 1954 into communist North Vietnam and capitalist South Vietnam, President Eisenhower supported President Diem's regime in South Vietnam with over a billion dollars. President Kennedy greatly increased American military involvement, but it was President Johnson who in 1965 sent the first American ground troops. By July 1965 Johnson had increased US involvement to 125 000 troops and expanded the air war against North Vietnam.

During this period many people criticised America's increasing involvement. Some argued that the USA would never be able to win a war across the other side of the world and that its vital interests were not involved. Others argued that it was vitally important for America to stop the spread of communism and that it could succeed if no restrictions were placed on the military commanders.

Was the USA right to become involved in Vietnam?

SOURCE A

We fight this war because we must fight if we are to live in a world where every country can shape its own future. And only in such a world will a future be safe. We are in Vietnam because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American president has offered support to the people of Vietnam. We have helped to build and we have helped to defend. Over many years we have made a national pledge to help South Vietnam defend its independence. To dishonour that pledge, to abandon this small and brave nation to its enemies, and to the terror that must follow, would be an unforgivable wrong.

From a speech by President Johnson to the American people, April 1965.

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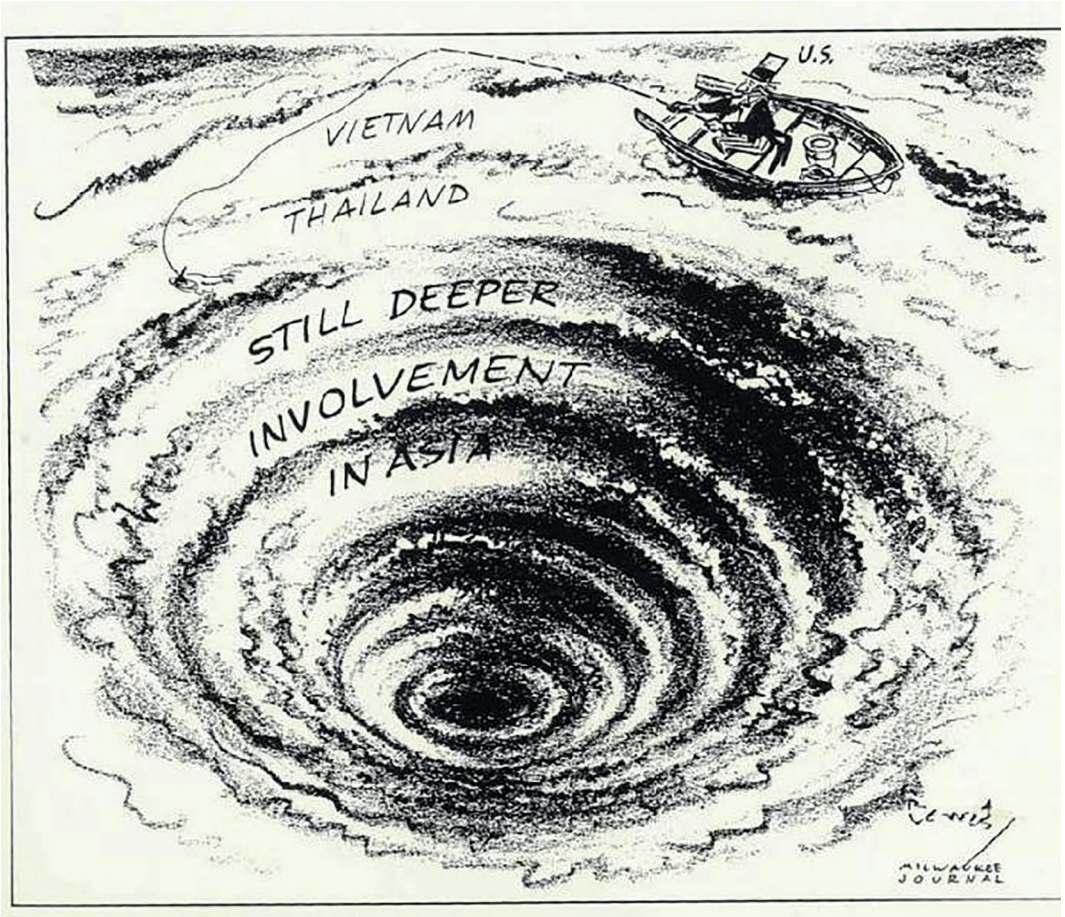
SOURCE B

A cartoon published in the United States in May 1964.

SOURCE C



A cartoon published in an American newspaper in 1965.

SOURCE D

By the time the United States finally left South Vietnam in 1973, we had lost over 58 000 men and women, our economy had been damaged by years of heavy war spending, and the political unity of our society had been shattered. Were such high costs justified? Many conclude that without US intervention in Vietnam, Communism would have spread farther through South and East Asia. I seriously question such judgements. I question whether either Soviet or Chinese behaviour and influence in the 1970s and 1980s would have been different had we not entered the war or had we withdrawn from Vietnam in the early or mid-1960s.

By then it should have been clear that the two conditions underlying President Kennedy's decision to send military advisers were not being met, and could not be met: political stability did not exist; and the South Vietnamese were incapable of defending themselves. I do not believe that US withdrawal in 1963 would have led West Europeans to question our support for NATO. On the contrary, it is possible we would have improved our credibility by withdrawing from Vietnam and saving our strength for more defensible stands elsewhere.

From 'In Retrospect, The Tragedy and Lessons of Vietnam' by Robert S McNamara, published in 1995. McNamara was Secretary of Defence in the governments of Kennedy and Johnson from 1961 to 1968 when he resigned over Vietnam.

SOURCE E

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A cartoon published in an American newspaper, May 1970. The soldier on the right is saying 'You see, the reason we are in Vietnam is to protect us boys in Vietnam.'

SOURCE F

Despite the long years of support and vast expenditure of lives and funds, the United States in the end abandoned South Vietnam.

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Many of the errors could be traced to the conduct of the war from Washington.

From 'A Soldier Reports', General Westmoreland's account of his military career, published in 1976. Westmoreland commanded US forces in Vietnam from 1964 to 1968. He was replaced in Vietnam because of the Tet Offensive.

SOURCE G

US involvement in Vietnam was a logical development of the policy of containment that Americans had accepted for more than two decades. The US intervention in Vietnam was misguided. It can be argued that the containment policy worked in Europe, but it was misapplied in Vietnam. Obsessed with their determination to stop the advance of communism, abysmally ignorant of the Vietnamese people and their history, Americans misread the nature of the struggle in Vietnam.

Defeat came hard, and it has been fashionable for many Americans to argue that victory could have been achieved if the war had been fought differently. Such views are comforting and agree with 'the illusion of American omnipotence'. But the lesson of the Vietnam War is that power, no matter how great, has its limits. I do not believe that the war could have been won in any meaningful sense or at a moral or financial price Americans would – or should – have been willing to pay.

From a book about the Vietnam War published in 2002.

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Now answer **all** the following questions. You may use any of the sources to help you answer the questions, in addition to those sources which you are told to use. In answering the questions you should use your knowledge of the topic to help you interpret and evaluate the sources.

1 Study Source A.

How far are you surprised by Source A? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

2 Study Sources B and C.

How far do these two cartoonists agree? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [7]

3 Study Source D.

How useful is this source as evidence about American involvement in Vietnam? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [7]

4 Study Source E.

Why was this cartoon published in May 1970? Explain your answer using details of the source and your knowledge. [8]

5 Study Sources F and G.

Does Source F prove Source G to be wrong? Explain your answer using details of the sources and your knowledge. [8]

6 Study **all** the sources.

How far do these sources provide convincing evidence that the USA was right to get involved in Vietnam? Use the sources to explain your answer. [12]

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