

## A-level HISTORY

Component 2Q The American Dream: reality and illusion, 1945–1980

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Time allowed: 2 hours 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 7042/2Q.
- Answer **three** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- 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:
  - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

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**Section A**Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From a TV election broadcast by Jimmy Carter, shown nationwide prior to the presidential election, 1976. Carter was shown against a background of images of the USA.

**Source A not reproduced here due to third-party copyright restrictions**

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**Source B**

From the autobiography, 'A Time to Heal', by Gerald Ford, published in 1979.

I failed to anticipate the vehemence of the hostile reaction to my decision to pardon Nixon. What I had intended to convince my fellow citizens was necessary surgery, essential if we were to heal our wounded nation, was being attacked as a secret deal that I had worked out with Nixon before he had resigned. Nixon, in my opinion, had already suffered enormously. His resignation was an implicit admission of guilt. But I wasn't motivated primarily by sympathy for his plight. It was the state of the country that worried me. The entire process would no doubt require years. He would be fighting for his freedom and his constant struggle would have dominated the news. No other issue could compete with the drama of a former President trying to stay out of jail. Passions on both sides would be aroused. A period of such prolonged bitter and abusive debate would be disastrous for the nation. America needed recovery, not revenge. The hate had to be drained and the healing begun.

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**Source C**

From a New York Times article, 'Carter Now Faces the Problem of Making Good on Promises', 15 November 1976. The New York Times was sympathetic to the Democrats.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying Carter and Ford and the election of 1976.

**[30 marks]****Turn over for Section B**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2** 'The United States became a more divided nation under Truman.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

**0 3** 'Kennedy's greatest mistakes were in his appointments rather than in his policies.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

**0 4** To what extent were US military mistakes responsible for US failures in the Vietnam War in the years 1964 to 1968?

[25 marks]

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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