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# A-level HISTORY

Component 1K The making of a Superpower: USA, 1865–1975

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Friday 9 June 2017

Morning

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 7042/1K.
- 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:
  - 60 minutes on Question 01
  - 45 minutes on each of the other questions answered.

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**Section A**

Answer Question 01.

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**Extract A**

The United States was, by 1900, the world's leading industrial nation due to its hard-working population and vast resources rather than the impact of big businessmen. It produced more coal and pig-iron, and manufactured more raw cotton, than its nearest competitor, Great Britain. It produced more iron ore and steel than Germany; more gold than Australia, and nearly as much silver as Mexico; more tobacco and cotton than India, and more wheat than Russia. Britain had a much larger merchant fleet, Russia had far more sheep and produced somewhat more petroleum; but even in these departments America's achievement was increasingly formidable. Her production of crude oil, for instance, was to more than double between 1899 and 1919. Every year the giant's pre-eminence increased. America was still a debtor nation, borrowing more than she lent; but her enterprises were generating ever mounting quantities of money that were beginning to find their way into investments overseas. 5 10

Hugh Brogan, *The History of the United States of America*, 1990

**Extract B**

The organisation of US Steel in 1901 brought to a climax a movement which had been under way for a generation: the concentration of business in large trusts. Business combination had many advantages. It tended to eliminate competition, diminishing the hazard that unregulated production would drive prices below costs. 5

The concentration of industry developed swiftly in the years after the Civil War and reached a climax around the turn of the century. The trust movement grew out of fierce competition. Competing railways cut freight rates in the hope of obtaining the lion's share of the business. This led to a downward trend of prices and led to 'gentlemen's agreements' between rival producers to maintain prices and profits. In the 1880s, these 'agreements' were superseded by trusts- a form of combination in which affiliated companies handed control to a board of trustees. The Standard Oil Company was the first and most characteristic of these trusts which piled up fortunes for their founders. 10

Morison, Commager and Leuchtenburg, *A History of the American Republic*, 1983

**Extract C**

Many farmers, especially in the West, did not prosper to the same extent as did many of their industrial counterparts. Between 1873 and 1895, agricultural production increased at a greater rate than industrial output; there was therefore substantial overproduction and prices fell. Thus it was typical that wheat, from \$1.05 per bushel in 1870, reached its lowest price of 49 cents in 1894. To make matters worse, the competition of new lands just coming into production in Australasia, Canada and South America meant that the surplus could not be profitably exported. Furthermore, international prices, which were falling, increasingly dictated the domestic price, so that the whole problem of planning production on a single farm became more difficult at the same time as it was becoming more complex technologically. The tariff simply forced the unfortunate farmer to pay more for his manufactured goods. Immigration helped to maintain a persistent land boom in the trans-Mississippi West; by 1886 this had become a frenzy of land speculation.

Adapted from H C Allen, A History of the USA, 1968

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Using your understanding of the historical context, assess how convincing the arguments in these three extracts are in relation to the American economy in the second half of the nineteenth century.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for the next question**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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- 0 2** To what extent had any progress made by African-Americans during Radical Reconstruction been lost by 1890? **[25 marks]**
- 0 3** 'US foreign policy in the years 1919 to 1941 was based on isolationism.'  
Assess the validity of this view. **[25 marks]**
- 0 4** To what extent can the US policy of containment in Asia in the years 1945 to 1975 be described as a success? **[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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