



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2012

## History

## HIS2Q

Unit 2Q The USA and Vietnam, 1961–1975

Monday 23 January 2012 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm

**For this paper you must have:**

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

**Time allowed**

- 1 hour 30 minutes

**Instructions**

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2Q.
- Answer **two** questions.  
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

**Information**

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- 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 45 minutes on each question.

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Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

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### Question 1

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

**Source A** Adapted from a report from Henry Cabot Lodge, US Ambassador to South Vietnam, to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, 29 August 1963

- We are launched on a course from which there is no turning back: the overthrow of the Diem government. There is no turning back because there is no possibility that the war can be won under a Diem administration, still less that Diem can govern the country in a way that will gain the support of the people both in Vietnam and America.
- 5 I am in full agreement with the policy I was instructed to carry out. Vietnamese generals doubt that we have the determination to see this through. They think we will run out on them, even though we have told them that the game has started.

**Source B** Adapted from a message from McGeorge Bundy, President Kennedy's National Security Adviser, to Ambassador Lodge, 5 October 1963

- The President today approved the recommendations that no initiative should be taken to give any encouragement to a coup against Diem. There should, however, be urgent effort with the closest security to identify and build contacts with a possible alternative leadership, as and when it appears. It is essential that this effort be totally
- 5 secret and fully deniable by us. This effort is not to be aimed at the active promotion of a coup but only at surveillance and readiness. In order to make any denial believable, I suggest that you issue only oral instructions to your staff.

**Source C** By August 1963, the war had become a critical problem for the USA. The Diem government's authority in large parts of the countryside had largely disappeared, and near chaos gripped many cities. Kennedy feared the possibility of premature negotiations for an end to the war. The Saigon government could not possibly

5 enter talks in an advantageous position given the political instability in the South and the increasing NLF strength. Kennedy seems to have believed that a change in government could speed up an American withdrawal. The new leaders would implement needed reforms, win increased popular support at the expense of the Vietcong and allow the United States to end its presence in Vietnam.

Adapted from F LOGEVALL, *The Origins of the Vietnam War*, 2001

**0 1** Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to the removal from power of President Diem. (12 marks)

**0 2** Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far was President Kennedy committed to protecting South Vietnam? (24 marks)

**EITHER****Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why President Johnson escalated US involvement in Vietnam in 1965. *(12 marks)*

**0 4** 'In the years 1965 to 1968, it was the anti-war movement in the USA that convinced President Johnson that his policy of escalation had failed.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR****Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why the Nixon Doctrine was announced in June 1969. *(12 marks)*

**0 6** 'The 1973 Paris Agreement was a triumph for the USA.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Question 1 Source C: F LOGEVALL, *The Origins of the Vietnam War*, Longman, 2001

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