

LEAVING CERT HISTORY PAST PAPERS ESSAY QUESTIONS

Europe and the Wider World: Topic 6 **The United States and the World, 1945-1989**

Note: The United States and the World was the topic for the Documents-Based Question (DBQ) in 2008, 2009, 2020 and 2021.

2024

- How well did President Harry Truman handle the challenges he faced, 1945-1953?
- Why did the Montgomery bus boycott take place and in what ways did it advance the cause of civil rights?
- How did Betty Friedan and/or Marilyn Monroe reflect the changing role of women in US society?
- What was the significance of the moon landing, 1969, and of Star Wars?

2023

- How did one or more of the following affect the US: McCarthyism; the military-industrial complex; the anti-war movement?
- Which posed the greater threat to US security, the Korean War or the Cuban Missile Crisis? Argue your case, referring to both.
- What attempts were made to tackle racial inequality in the US, 1945-1989?
- How did the US achieve a successful moon landing in 1969, and what was its significance at home and abroad?

2022

- How effectively did US leaders deal with problems posed by two of the following: Korea; Cuba; Vietnam?
- What were the key developments in race relations, 1945-1989?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of the US economy, 1945-1989?
- What was the contribution to American life of two of the following: Betty Friedan; Billy Graham; Marilyn Monroe?

2021

- [DBQ] To what extent did the Montgomery bus boycott bring about change?

2020

- [DBQ] How did US involvement in Vietnam affect the presidency of Lyndon Johnson?

2019

- Why and how did the US become involved in war in Korea and/or Vietnam?
- During the period 1945-1989, to what extent did the movement for racial equality achieve meaningful change in the US?
- How did the US achieve a successful moon landing in 1969 and what was its national and international significance for the US?
- What was the contribution to American life of one or more of the following: Joe McCarthy; Billy Graham; Norman Mailer?

2018

- How effectively did President Harry Truman tackle the problems he faced at home and abroad?
- What was the importance, for both countries, of US involvement in Vietnam?
- What did Marilyn Monroe and/or Billy Graham contribute to American life?
- During the period 1945-1989, what was the significance of advances made in space travel and information technology?

2017

- From Roosevelt to Reagan, would you agree that American presidents always acted for the good of America? Argue your case referring to more than one president.
- What was the contribution of Martin Luther King to the events of the Montgomery bus boycott and to other aspects of US life?
- What were the achievements of the US economy, 1945-1968, and what factors limited its growth, 1968-1989?
- How did one or more of the following challenge widely-held views in the US: Norman Mailer; Betty Friedan; Muhammad Ali?

2016

- Who was the greater president, Truman or Johnson? Argue your case, referring to both in your answer.
- During the period 1945-1989, what was the impact on US society of McCarthyism and/or the anti-war movement?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of the US economy, 1945-1989?
- What was the significance of the moon landing (1969) and/or Star Wars?

2015

- During the period 1945-1989, what was the importance for US foreign policy of one or more of the following: Berlin; Korea; Cuba?
- Why did the Montgomery bus boycott (1956) take place, how was it carried out, and to what extent was it successful?
- What was the American Dream and to what extent was it reflected in life in the US, 1945-1989?
- During the period 1945-1989, what advances were made by the Americans in military, space and information technology?

2014

- Why did race relations remain a major issue in the US, 1945-1989?
- What were the strengths and weaknesses of Lyndon Johnson as a political leader?
- What were the significant developments in the US economy, 1945-1989?
- How did the Americans achieve a successful moon landing in 1969 and what was its importance for the US?

2013

- What were the main developments in race relations in the US, 1945-1968?
- Which president was more successful in his handling of US foreign policy, Harry Truman or Lyndon Johnson? Argue your case, referring to both.

- What was the impact on the US economy of one or more of the following: the multinational corporation; the military-industrial complex; international competition from Japan and Europe?
- What was the contribution of religion and/or the mass media to modern American culture?

2012

- How well did President Harry Truman or President Lyndon Johnson handle the challenges he faced?
- To what extent did the US economy experience both success and decline during the period 1945-1989?
- What part did one or more of the following play in US foreign policy: Korea; Cuba; SALT and Star Wars?
- What was the significance of one or more of the following in US history: Hollywood, 1945- 1968; the Montgomery bus boycott; religion in modern American culture?

2011

- How did the US Presidency develop from Roosevelt to Reagan?
- What was the contribution of Martin Luther King to US affairs?
- Why did the US lose the Vietnam War and/or what was the significance of the Moon landing?
- What did one or more of the following contribute to American culture: Marilyn Monroe; Muhammad Ali; Billy Graham?

2010

- What was the importance for US foreign policy of one or more of the following: Berlin; Korea; Cuba?
- Why did the United States experience an economic boom, 1945-1968, and what was its impact on society?
- What were the successes and failures of the presidency of Lyndon Johnson?
- What was the impact of the Moon Landing on US domestic and foreign affairs?

2009

- [DBQ] How important was the Montgomery bus boycott to the American civil rights movement?

2008

- [DBQ] Why was President Johnson unable to win the war in Vietnam?

2007

- How did McCarthyism and/or the anti-war movement affect US foreign policy, 1945-1972?
- In what ways did the Montgomery bus boycott, 1956, advance the cause of the civil rights movement?
- What contribution did Betty Friedan and/or Norman Mailer make to society in the United States?
- What were the significant developments in US foreign policy, 1973-1989?

2006

- During the period, 1945-1989, what was the impact of one or more of the following on American society: racial conflict; urban poverty; organised crime?
- Which had the greater impact on the United States: involvement in Korea or involvement in Vietnam? Argue your case, referring to both.
- What were the successes and failures of the political career of Ronald Reagan?
- What was the importance of one or more of the following: McCarthyism; the Moon Landing, 1969; developments in information technology?