

Making a case for the bigger picture

Looking at a variety of sources and analysing them objectively will make your compulsory case study question a lot easier

DOCUMENTS-BASED QUESTION: 100 marks

There are three compulsory case studies; one will be examined.

1: Lyndon Johnson and Vietnam 1963-68 - Politics and administration;

2: The Montgomery Bus Boycott 1956 - Society and economy;

3: The Moon Landing - Culture, religion and science.

The question has four sections (the four Cs):

Comprehension - 20 marks; Comparison - 20 marks;

Criticism - 20 marks; Contextualisation - 40 marks.

Case Study 1: What you need to know

Why did Johnson go into Vietnam?

What difficulties did the US encounter?

Why did the conflict escalate?

Did Vietnam affect domestic policy?

Did Vietnam affect the presidency of Johnson?

Was the media important?

Was race an issue?

Why did the Americans stay so long?

The anti-war movement and public reaction.

Why did the Americans withdraw?

Did the Americans lose or did the Communists win?

Key Personalities:

Lyndon Johnson; Joe McCarthy; Martin Luther King; Norman Mailer; Muhammad Ali; Harry S Truman.

Key Concepts:

Globalisation; internationalism; imperialism; the military industrial-complex; mass media; public opinion.

Case Study 2: What you need to know

The North/South divide and Jim Crow Laws

Urbanisation in the North

Ku Klux Klan

Desegregation in the armed forces

Lunch-counter protests

Civil Rights Act

Reasons for the boycott

Who opposed it?

Who supported it?

The reaction of the media

The role of the Christian/Muslim churches

How did the boycott affect other minorities?

Did desegregation mean equality?

Was Montgomery a great victory for the civil rights movement?

Did Montgomery influence the passing of the Civil Rights Bill in 1964?

How did Vietnam affect the civil rights movement?

Why did the movement expand and become concentrated in the North?

Key Personalities:

Martin Luther King; Muhammad Ali.

Key Concepts:

Discrimination; liberalism; mass media; public opinion; fundamentalism; feminism.

Case Study 3: What you need to know

Why did the Americans land on the moon?

Why was there opposition to the space programme?

The Apollo mission

The significance of cultural and scientific breakthroughs

The role of the president in the development of the space programme

The relationship between the development of the space programme and the Cold War.

Key Personalities:

Lyndon Johnson; Norman Mailer.

Key Concepts:

Internationalism; imperialism; technological development; the military-industrial complex; mass media; public opinion.

MAIN STUDY FOCUS:

Lyndon Johnson and Vietnam, 1963 - 68: 100 marks

Source A:

The actions of both Washington and Saigon frequently antagonised the South Vietnamese peasants, helping to explain America's failure. Life for the South Vietnamese peasantry deteriorated after the Americans arrived. American bombing forced many peasants to move away from their homes, crops and ancestral graves which meant so much to them.

- Vivienne Sanders, *The USA and Vietnam 1945-75*

Source B:

One peasant recalled a day when: "The bombing started at about eight o'clock in the morning and lasted for hours. When we first heard the explosions, we rushed into the tunnels but not everyone made it. When there was a pause in the attack, some of us climbed out to see what we could do, and the scene was terrifying. Bodies had been torn to pieces - limbs were hanging from trees and scattered around the ground. The bombing began again, this time with napalm, and the village went up in flames. The napalm hit me. I felt as if I was burning all over, like a piece of coal. I lost consciousness. Friends took me to the hospital, and my wounds didn't begin to heal until six months later. Over 200 people died in the raid, including my mother, sister-in-law and three nephews. They were buried alive when the tunnel collapsed."

- Stanley Karnow, *Vietnam: A History*

Source C:

It was very difficult for the Americans to win the hearts and minds of the people when the war and its military tactics aroused such antagonism. One Vietnamese nun told an American relief worker: "Vietnam was a beautiful country until you arrived."

- David Schulzinger, *A time for War: The United States and Vietnam*

Source D:

American technology created formidable new fighting weapons. The Vietnamese called cluster bombs "mother bombs" because after exploding in mid-air, they released 350 to 600 baby bombs. Each one exploded on impact into thousands of metal pellets. Later, fibreglass replaced the metal; X-rays could not detect it and it was harder and more



Lyndon Johnson being sworn in as US president on Air Force One after John F Kennedy's assassination. The circumstances of Johnson's accession caused him to "reaffirm president Kennedy's policies".

painful to remove. Heat sensitive and urine sniffing devices were developed to pinpoint and destroy an enemy, but this often turned out to be water buffalo or a child.

- Vivienne Sanders, *The USA and Vietnam 1945-75*

Source E:

An American pilot described the effectiveness of the new white phosphorous: "We sure are pleased with those back room boys at Dow [Chemical Company]. The original product wasn't so hot - if the gooks were quick, they could scrape it off. So the boys started adding polystyrene - now it sticks like shit to a blanket. But, then, if the gooks jumped under water, it stopped burning, so they started adding Willie Peter (WP - white phosphorous) so's to make it burn better. It'll keep on burning under water now. And one drop is enough; it'll keep on burning right down to the bone so they die anyway from the phosphorous poisoning."

- Marilyn Young, *The Vietnam Wars: 1945-1990*

Comprehension Questions: 20 marks

Question 1 (a): In Source C, what did the Vietnamese nun mean by her statement?

Answer: The nun declared that "Vietnam was a beautiful country until you arrived", which implies that the Americans were responsible for destroying the fabric of the country.

Question 1 (b): In Source D why did the Vietnamese call cluster bombs, mother bombs?

Answer: After exploding, they released 350 to 600 baby bombs; it was comparable to a mother giving birth.

Question 1 (c): In sources E: why were the American pilots pleased with the back room boys?

Answer: They improved white phosphorous by adding "polystyrene" so it "sticks" and by adding "WP" phosphorous so that it would "burn better" in water. As a result, the enemy would die from "phosphorous poisoning".

Comparison Questions: 20 marks

Question 2 (a): Compare the tone of the Vietnamese peasant with that of the American pilot.

Answer: The peasants tone is factual and informative - "the bombing started at about eight o'clock and lasted for hours". It is also despondent and devastated and dwells on the destructive nature of the bombing. "Over two hundred