

**SECTION B****Answer EITHER Question 3 OR Question 4.****EITHER**

- 3** How far did the position of American women change in the years 1917–80?

**(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)****OR**

- 4** How far was the response to fears of communist influence in the period after the First World War different from the response in the period after the Second World War?

**(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)**

## SECTION B

Indicate which question you are answering by marking a cross in the box ☒. If you change your mind, put a line through the box ☒ and then indicate your new question with a cross ☒.

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Chosen question number:

Question 3 ☒

Question 4 ☒

In the 20th century, the USA experienced two Red Scares, one after the First World War and one after the Second World War. During both Red Scares, the fear of communist influence struck the USA, a capitalist society, and provoked anti-communist reactions from the American people. However, the reactions that occurred as a result of this fear of communist influence were different in each of the two Red Scares that occurred.

The first ~~scare~~ in Red Scare occurred after during 1914-20, right after the First World War ended in 1918. Due to fear of the communist influence, in addition to the establishment of communist parties within the USA, such as the Communist Party of America, harsh reactions of anti-communism took place.

Anarchists distributed pamphlets in cities, urging revolution, and as a result, many restrictions were put on immigration, such as the 1921 Emergency Quota Act (which set a limit on immigration) and some immigrants were deported. All of this was as a result of the fear that some of these immigrants were communist, anarchist or worse. The fear of communism also led to the formation of, or increasing membership of groups such as the Ku Klux Klan which was violent, racist, anti-communist



(Section B continued) and opposed anything that they saw as "un-American". People also ~~because~~ <sup>began</sup> to accuse each other of being communist and were very suspicious of one another. The Red Scare eventually began to die down, until after the Second World War, when the ~~second~~ <sup>second</sup> Red Scare took place.

The second Red Scare had more basis than the first - the USSR had been spying on the USA and were especially keen to get hold of atomic weapons secrets. Elizabeth Bentley told HUAC (House Un-American Activities Commission) of a Moscow spy-ring that she had been involved in and named other government employees that were involved. The trials of Alger Hiss and the Rosenbergs were highly publicised. In the first Hiss trial, he was not found guilty because the judge could not decide, but he was found guilty in the re-trial. The Rosenbergs were also found guilty, and in addition to the trials of Alger Hiss and the Rosenbergs, many Hollywood actors were blacklisted after being accused of communism. The Second Red Scare also led to <sup>the</sup> formation of agencies such as the Central Intelligence Agency (which reported directly to the White House) and also to the start of the arms race between the USA and the USSR, in which Russia's holding of atomic weapons rose from 13 to over 50. This led to the Cuban Missile Crisis in 1962, which almost resulted in a nuclear war. People were also too scared to express their views in public due to the fact that they could receive harsh treatment



(Section B continued) if they were a suspected communist, and many people also began to suspect their neighbours. Response to the fear of communist influence remained harsh. Another reason why people were too scared to express their views was because the FBI was able to bug homes and record conversations, another reaction to the rising fear of communist influence. Response to the fear of communist influence remained harsh and fear itself remained high, especially after Joseph McCarthy claimed that he had the names of over 200 government employees who were communist - however, he pretended to have left the list on an aeroplane when asked to show it, and then began to repeatedly decrease the number of names he claimed to know. An investigation revealed that his claim was a muddle of "half-truth and lies", and he lost a lot of popularity, though reactions to fear of communist influence remained high until the Second Red Scare eventually began to die down.

As an overall judgement, the response to fears of communism in the period following the First World War were significantly different to the response to fears of communism in the period following the Second World War. This is due to the fact that atomic weapons had not been developed during the period right after the First World War, and so the fear of communism was not as high during the First Red Scare as it was in the Second Red Scare, therefore reactions were not as harsh. However, in the second Red Scare, when atomic weapons had been developed and the USSR was revealed to have been spying on the USA, the fear



(Section B continued) of communist influence was incredibly high, especially after the trials of Alger Hiss and the Rosenbergs. Reactions, including blacklisting, were so harsh that people were too scared to express their views due to the FBI bugging homes. The fact that the FBI was allowed to do this, and the creation of the CIA and increase in the powers of the president, shows that the fear of communist influence was so great that the government deemed it necessary to react in such an extreme way that did not appear necessary during the First Red Scare. Therefore, response to fears of communist influence was very different in the ~~same~~ period after the Second World War than the period after the First World War.

