

8HI0 2H

Section B

SECTION B

Answer ONE question in Section B on the option for which you have been prepared.

You must start your answer to your chosen question on the next page.

Option 2H.1: The USA, c1920–55: boom, bust and recovery

EITHER

- 3 How accurate is it to say that racial intolerance was the most significant social problem of the 1920s in the United States?

(Total for Question 3 = 20 marks)

OR

- 4 How far were opponents of President Franklin D. Roosevelt successful in changing the course of the New Deal for the American people in the years 1933–41?

(Total for Question 4 = 20 marks)

OR

- 5 How accurate is it to say that the actions of the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC) in the years 1947–50 were the main reason for McCarthyism in the years 1950–54?

(Total for Question 5 = 20 marks)

Option 2H.2: The USA, 1955–92: conformity and challenge

EITHER

- 6 How accurate is it to say that poverty remained a major feature of American society in the years 1955–64?

(Total for Question 6 = 20 marks)

OR

- 7 To what extent did Gerald Ford and Jimmy Carter create a new style of Presidential leadership?

(Total for Question 7 = 20 marks)

OR

- 8 How accurate is it to say that the Reagan Presidency during the years 1981–89 benefited only the rich?

(Total for Question 8 = 20 marks)



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 ☒.

Chosen question number: Question 3 ☒ Question 4 ☒ Question 5 ☒
Question 6 ☒ Question 7 ☒ Question 8 ☒

Taking all factors into account, it can be argued that poverty remained a major feature of American society in the years 1955-1964, however we must be cautious when generalising this to ^{the} American society as a whole, as seemingly it was only a major factor for the poor, and often ethnic minorities.

As of the 1950's and 1960's, 16 states still had Jim Crow laws and there was legislative segregation, implying that in these states, presumably Southern States, black members of the community would have been forced into bad quality accommodation, which they would have been over charged for, taking away a huge sum of their limited wage[⊗], suggesting that their living standard's would have been extremely low, denoting ~~that~~ that for black inner city residents, poverty was a major factor of their life.

⊗if they were lucky enough to find employment



However, the white people of the 1950's and 1960's America usually did white collar jobs, paying more than what black people earn, meaning they could enjoy a higher quality of life, than what the black people could have. Also the idea that teenagers often worked, and due to their parents earning a decent wage (white people), they were able to spend their money on luxuries, music records for example, suggesting that for white people with white collar occupations, poverty was not much of an issue for them.

Seemingly poverty during 1955-1964, poverty was much more common among black people, and once Kennedy is elected, he notices this issue and takes action with his 'New Deal for brown people', implementing \$20 million into internal improvements of schools and hospitals for black people, although it appears that the programme was not totally successful due to rich business men of ~~the~~ building companies kept a lot of the money. In addition to this however, Kennedy went even further with systems to



help the poor, as he increased the minimum wage to \$0.25 to \$1.25, introduced the Food Stamp Programme which allowed 240,000 people to eat, as well as passing a series of acts to aid the poor including: 'The Omnibus Housing Act', granting \$5 billion to aid low income families with rent supplements, 'The Agriculture Act' giving subsidies to struggling farmers, also subconsciously the National Highway System also created more jobs to help people escape poverty - from this we can argue that poverty was clearly a predominant factor of the early 1960's, however federal figures such as Kennedy, and later Johnson did try to eliminate poverty.

Although it might also be argued that many of the systems created to eliminate poverty were indeed unsuccessful due to white opposition, for example 'The Federal Housing Association' distributed low interest loans for houses in the late 1950's, however blacks and Chinese people were often excluded from these deals as they were considered risks by white men who distributed the loans.



this is one example of how the government tried to enforce residential segregation. Not only did the government try to promote residential segregation, as did local white people, because they knew if black people moved into the predominantly white areas, property values would fall and schools would decline. For example, in 1963 the Ronford Fair Housing Act was passed, stopping discrimination in the sale or rental of homes, however due to such strong white opposition it was not enforced and black people still had to live in over crowded accommodation, due to ~~the~~ white racism as William Levitt concluded; "If we sell one house to a black family 90/95% of white people will not buy into the community, that is their opinion not ours".

Another group of minorities which were subject to poverty during these years were Native Americans, as over half of them lived on reservations with high unemployment rates (20%-80%), and had an average life expectancy of 46 years due to poverty. Native American's rights



were often abused by the government, and self governing Native American reservations were often prone to be struggling from poverty, or were found to be living in ghettos with poor educations and a lack of employment opportunities, supporting the idea that poverty during 1955-1964 was largely based upon race.

Although, it might also be argued that during the 1950's and 1960's, high living standards were experienced as by 1958, there was 67 million cars registered, implying that poverty among those who lived in suburbia and drove cars was not apparent, again reinforcing the idea that white people seemed to be eliminated from poverty as those who lived in suburbia were usually those who had experienced white flight (white people) - indicating that for the high proportion of white middle Americans who owned a car, poverty was in fact, not a major factor of life for them.

To conclude, it can be thoroughly argued that for minorities in America, poverty



remained a major factor of their lives, as black children were susceptible to a lower quality of education, for example in California \$173 was given for a white child's funding, but only \$43 for a black student, as well as extreme discrimination in the sale/rental of houses, which often led to "imprisoning the Negroes in the slums", and although federal figures, such as Kennedy worked to eliminate poverty, due to local level discrimination, for ethnic minorities, poverty was not abolished 1955-1963. However, for the white middle class Americans, poverty was absent in their lives, as home ownership hit 81% in 1961, and car ownership boomed, as well as full youth employment, which was predominantly experienced by white teenagers, making white people immune to poverty, while it disproportionately affected the ethnic minorities lives in 1955-1964.

