

Paper Reference(s) 9HI0/1F

Pearson Edexcel Level 3 GCE

History

Advanced

**Paper 1: Breadth study with
interpretations**

**Option 1F: In search of the American
dream: the USA, c1917–96**

Tuesday 21 May 2019 – Afternoon

EXTRACTS BOOKLET

**DO NOT RETURN THIS
EXTRACTS BOOKLET WITH
THE QUESTION PAPER.**

Extracts for use with Section C.

**Extract 1: From Richard M. Abrams,
America Transformed:
Sixty Years of Revolutionary
Change, 1941–2001,
published 2008.**

**Ronald Reagan presented himself as
someone with a straight-shooting,
down-to-earth attitude. Yet his
remarkable inability to separate
fact and truth from fiction and myth 5
became legendary. He made up
provocative stories to illustrate his
opposition to social welfare and
repeated them even after it became
known that they were fictitious. To 10
justify his opposition to environmental
regulations, he proposed the
absurdity that trees contributed more
to pollution than did automobiles. He
authorised a deliberate violation of 15
law and public policy in the**

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Iran-Contra affair, and several high officials in his government lied under oath about it. The gap between what the man publicly said, and repeated, and what the facts clearly indicated was often overwhelming. 20

By the mid-1990s this gap produced a woeful decline in standards within American political life. Curiously, Reagan's personal popularity was not matched by public approval of his policies. Contemporary polls repeatedly showed that most Americans supported policies sharply at odds with those Reagan pushed through a Congress that was intimidated by a President of such evident popularity. These included Social Security, environmental and consumer protection and taxation policies. 25 30 35

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Extract 2: From Gil Troy, The Reagan Revolution: A Very Short Introduction, published 2009.

**‘They called it the Reagan revolution,’
 Ronald Reagan noted in his farewell
 address. ‘Well, I’ll accept that, but for 40
 me it always seemed more like the
 great rediscovery, a rediscovery of
 our values and our common sense.’
 Reagan’s legacy continued to shape
 American politics, diplomacy, culture, 45
 and economics. Throughout the early
 1990s, Ronald Reagan’s historical
 standing plummeted. More people
 seemed to remember his mistakes
 not his gains, his losses not his wins. 50
 Ironically, the Democratic victory
 in 1992 helped resurrect Reagan’s
 historical reputation. The Democrats’
 embrace of the booming 1990s
 made it harder to criticise Reagan 55
 Republicans for championing the
 booming 1980s.**

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The end of the Cold War loomed even larger as an achievement, as the economic growth of the 1990s minimised the significance of the once formidable Reagan-era budget deficits. Reagan had a quick wit, a silver tongue and a sunny vision. Reagan's revolution, restoration and rediscovery continued to shape the country. Americans were living in a Reaganised America. America had emerged as the world's only superpower, enjoying a capitalist resurgence at home and abroad. Reagan's sun-belt conservatism continued to shine – or cast a shadow, depending on one's perspective – in the courts, the Congress, and state capitals. Reagan revived Americans' traditional self-confidence, restoring their optimism about their country's future.

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