

# GCSE History

## Paper 3 Modern Depth Study Question 2



## Question 2

### Explain why...



## Q2: Explain why...

**Question 2 focuses on explaining causation.** That means *why* something happened.

Answer EITHER Question 2(a) OR Question 2(b).

**EITHER**

2 (a) Explain why the Montgomery Bus Boycott succeeded in achieving its aims. (12)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA)
- Supreme Court

You **must** also use information of your own.

**OR**

(b) Explain why US involvement in Vietnam increased in the years 1954–64. (12)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- Domino theory
- Gulf of Tonkin incident

You **must** also use information of your own.

(Total for Question 2 = 12 marks)

The USA, 1954-75; conflict at home and abroad

## Q2: Explain why...

**Question 2 focuses on explaining causation.** That means *why* something happened.

You are provided with a **choice of two options** for this question.

- You answer will explain the reasons for a specified event or development.
- 3 aspects of content.
- It is worth 12 marks.
- You should spend around 20mins (ET: 25mins) on this.

The USA, 1954-75; conflict at home and abroad

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## Q2: Explain why...

Explain why... means why did it happen? You need to focus on the causes of something. No judgement required.

- 2 (a) Explain why the Montgomery Bus Boycott succeeded in achieving its aims.

(12)

You **may** use the following in your answer:

- Montgomery Improvement Association (MIA)
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The USA, 1954-75; conflict at home and abroad

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You **must** also use information of your own.

This is the focus of the question – you need to explain why this happened. This phrase is often repeated in higher performing answers.

The USA, 1954-75; conflict at home and abroad

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These stimulus points are designed to help you...but you don't have to use them. Your answer should cover **three** aspects of content.

The USA, 1954-75; conflict at home and abroad

**2** (a) Explain why the Montgomery Bus Boycott succeeded in achieving its aims.

Chosen question number: **Question 2(a)** ☒ **Question 2(b)** ☐

Write your answer here:

This image shows a single sheet of white paper with horizontal blue lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

## The USA, 1954-75; conflict at home and abroad





## 2 (a) Explain why the Montgomery Bus Boycott succeeded in achieving its aims.

Chosen question number: **Question 2(a)** ☒ **Question 2(b)** ☐

Write your answer here:

**Extract**

One reason that the Montgomery bus boycott was successful was because the bus companies had little choice but to concede and remove segregation on their buses. At this time, over 75% of their clientele were black, and so when almost all black customers, as well as some white customers boycotted their buses, they suffered heavy financial losses. This meant that after over a year of massively reduced customers, the bus companies either had to meet the demands of desegregation or go bankrupt. The former was the more favourable, and so the boycotts successfully forced bus companies to desegregate their bus service.

The USA, 1954-75; conflict at home and abroad

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The USA, 1954-75; conflict at home and abroad


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 The USA, 1954-75; conflict at home and abroad


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 The USA, 1954-75; conflict at home and abroad



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Answer has a **clear line of reasoning** that is **focused on the question** and provides **specific detail** supporting the analysis of why the MBB succeeded in achieving its aims.

The USA, 1954-75; conflict at home and abroad

# Other options

Russia and the Soviet Union, 1917-41

Explain why Stalin introduced the purges in the Soviet Union in the 1930s.

Weimar and Nazi Germany, 1918-39

Explain why the Nazis were able to reduce unemployment in Germany in the years 1933-39.

Mao's China, 1945-76

Explain why Mao introduced the Cultural Revolution.

The USA, 1954-75;  
conflict at home and  
abroad

Explain why US involvement in the Vietnam War changed under President Nixon.



# What makes a good answer?

The examiner is looking for:

- question requires an explanation of causes of an event / development, rather than a simple narrative or description.
- knowledge and understanding that supports the explanation.
- three aspects of content used.





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- Pay attention to the focus of the question– use the words from the question. *“One reason why X was because...”*
  - Use connectives to explain *“This led to”, “Therefore”, “This meant that”*
  - You do not need to write an introduction or conclusion. This means you do not need to write more than 3 paragraphs.



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- Pay attention to the focus of the question
  - Start each paragraph with a direct focus on the question – use the words from the question. *“One reason why X was because...”*
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  - You do not need to write an introduction or conclusion. This means you do not need to write more than 3 paragraphs.





Pearson

