Pearson Edexcel GCSE (9–1)

Tuesday 9 June 2020

Morning (Time: 1 hour 20 minutes) | Paper Reference **1HI0/33**

History

Paper 3: Modern depth study

Option 33: The USA, 1954–75: conflict at home and abroad

Sources/Interpretations Booklet for use within Section B.

Do not return this booklet with the question paper.

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Sources/interpretations for use with Section B.

Source B: From US government reports, written in 1966, about Operation Rolling Thunder. These reports were kept secret until 1993.

16 March, 1966

Despite US air force bombing of North Vietnam, the communists have actually been able to increase their movement of soldiers and supplies into South Vietnam.

The government of North Vietnam is still determined to support military operations in South Vietnam against US and South Vietnamese forces.

Bombing raids cannot slow down the movement of supplies and soldiers by the communists into South Vietnam.

12 September, 1966

US bombing raids against all transport routes in North Vietnam have increased during the past month. However, there is still no evidence of serious disruption to the movement of supplies going to the communists fighting in the South.

Bombing raids have not weakened the determination of the North Vietnamese people.

Source C: From a television interview with a former US soldier, recorded in 1981. He had fought in Vietnam during 1971–72.

Interviewer: What was the morale like in your unit?

Soldier: Morale got worse over time. There were knife fights. Most soldiers were high on drugs all the time.

If the men didn't like the officers then morale was bad. We had this one officer who didn't know what he was doing. When the enemy attacked he would shake with fear. He was a coward. One of our soldiers killed him by throwing a grenade into his hut. Nobody was punished; he deserved to get killed.

Interviewer: It almost sounds as if your unit was fighting amongst itself.

Interpretation 1: From *Vietnam* by C G Appy, published in 2003.

> The Americans thought that bombing would eventually convince the Vietnamese communists to give up.
>
> However, the Americans were never able to prevent North Vietnam from sending plenty of troops and supplies to the communists fighting in South Vietnam. No matter how many roads or bridges were destroyed by bombs the North Vietnamese repaired them or found other routes for their supplies.
>
> It was clear that American bombing was failing to defeat the enemy.

Interpretation 2: From *Vietnam 1939–75* by N DeMarco, published in 1998.

> At the start of the Vietnam War, American morale appeared to be good because most of the troops were professional soldiers and had volunteered. However, as the war went on, more and more American soldiers were drafted than volunteered.
>
> Many drafted soldiers did not want to be in Vietnam. Low morale was shown by the fact that American troops used drugs and sometimes even murdered their own officers. Desertions increased as American troops began to lose belief in the cause for which they were fighting.

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Acknowledgements

Source B taken from https://history.state.gov/historicaldocuments/frus1964-68v04/d268;
Interpretation 1 taken from 'Vietnam: the definitive oral history told from both sides', Christian G Appy, Ebury Press 2008;
Interpretation 2 taken from 'Vietnam 1939-75', Neal De Marco, Hodder (1998).

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