

## AS HISTORY

America: A Nation Divided, c1845–1877

Component 2J The origins of the American Civil War, c1845–1861

---

Monday 20 May 2024

Afternoon

Time allowed: 1 hour 30 minutes

### Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-page answer book.

### Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is 7041/2J.
- Answer **two** questions.  
In **Section A** answer Question 01.  
In **Section B** answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

### Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
  - use good English
  - organise information clearly
  - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

### Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
  - 50 minutes on Section A
  - 40 minutes on Section B.

---

**Section A**Answer Question 01.

---

**Source A**

From the political programme of the Free Soil Party, published in Buffalo, New York, 22 June 1848. The Free Soil Party was against the expansion of slavery.

We have assembled in our Convention, forgetting all past political differences, to maintain the rights of free labor against the aggressions of the 'Slave Power'. It is the duty of the Federal Government to avoid extending or permitting slavery into the territories which they supervise. The only means of preventing slavery expansion into the new territories of California and New Mexico is to prohibit its expansion by supporting the Wilmot Proviso. The 'Slave Power' has forced this issue; and to the demand of the slave owners for more slave states and more slave territory, our calm, but final answer is no more slave states, and no more slave territory. Let the soil of our extensive lands be kept free!

5

**Source B**

From a speech to the Senate by South Carolina Senator, John Calhoun, 4 March 1850. Calhoun's speech was part of the 1850 Compromise debate in response to Henry Clay's bill.

The North is making the most strenuous efforts to dominate the territories acquired from Mexico by excluding the South from them. The Union, since it declared its independence, has acquired millions of square miles of territory from which the North has excluded the South. If the North succeeds in monopolising the newly-acquired territories, about three-quarters of the Union will be theirs, leaving the South with one quarter. The North has the responsibility to maintain sectional peace and to do justice by conceding to the South an equal right in the acquired territories. At all events, the responsibility of saving the Union rests on the North, and not on the South.

5

**0 1**

With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, which of these two sources is more valuable in explaining the disputes over the territories acquired from the Mexican War?

**[25 marks]**

---

**Section B**

Answer **either** Question 02 **or** Question 03.

---

**Either**

**0 2** 'In c1845, the Union was stable.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**or**

**0 3** 'The main reason for increased support for the Republican Party, in the years 1857 to 1860, was the Dred Scott decision.'

Explain why you agree or disagree with this view.

**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

---

**There are no questions printed on this page**

**Copyright information**

For confidentiality purposes, all acknowledgements of third-party copyright material are published in a separate booklet. This booklet is published after each live examination series and is available for free download from [www.aqa.org.uk](http://www.aqa.org.uk)

Permission to reproduce all copyright material has been applied for. In some cases, efforts to contact copyright-holders may have been unsuccessful and AQA will be happy to rectify any omissions of acknowledgements. If you have any queries please contact the Copyright Team.

Copyright © 2024 AQA and its licensors. All rights reserved.

