

Y13 Revision



HISTORY - USA

Paper 1: Making of a Superpower

Revision Question Set

*You will spend **1 hour** answering a compulsory extracts question and **45 minutes** answering one essay question (you will have the choice of two)*

Your revision should focus on these key areas:

- The US economy 1920 - 1945
- Government and politics of the Gilded Age 1865-1890
- Social tensions and immigration 1890-1930

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Those topics highlighted in red should be a focus for revision.

The Era of Reconstruction and the Gilded Age, 1865–1890

- The weaknesses of Federal Government: Johnson, Grant and the failure of Radical Reconstruction
- **The politics of the Gilded Age and the era of weak presidents; political corruption**
- Social, regional and ethnic divisions: divisions within and between North, South and West; the position of African-Americans
- **Economic growth and the rise of corporations: railways; oil; developments in agriculture; urbanisation**
- **Laissez-faire dominance and consequences; the impact of the ending of the frontier**
- The limits of foreign engagement and continuation of isolationism: the continuation of the Monroe Doctrine; territorial consolidation (Alaska) and tensions over Canada

Populism, progressivism and imperialism, 1890–1920

- Political tensions and divisions: the reaction against Big Business at national and state level
- The ideas and influence of Bryan, Roosevelt and Taft; Populism, Progressivism and Wilson's New Freedom
- Economic change and developments: the rise of US dominance as an economic and industrial power and the consequences of this
- **Social developments: mass immigration and urbanisation and their consequences; the position of African-Americans**
- Foreign affairs: imperialism; engagement in international affairs; Spain and the Philippines; the Panama Canal; the First World War, neutrality and entry
- **The USA by 1920: economic power; social and ethnic divisions; political reaction and renewed isolationism**

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Crisis of identity, 1920–1945 (A-level only)

- Domestic politics: Harding, Coolidge and Republican conservatism; Hoover and the Depression
- **FD Roosevelt and the New Deals: conflict of ideas over the role of the Federal Government**
- **The economy: boom to bust and recovery; structural weaknesses and the impact of the New Deals and the Second World War on economic recovery**
- Social and cultural developments: ‘the Jazz Age’ in the 1920s; new social values and the role of women; the failure of prohibition and its significance; social impact of the Depression and the Second World War
- **Social, regional and ethnic divisions: countryside versus city; divisions between North, West and South; African-Americans and the rise of the Ku Klux Klan**
- The USA and international relations: the extent of isolationism; FDR and the end of isolationism and the Second World War

The Superpower, 1945–1975 (A-level only)

- Domestic politics: Truman, Eisenhower and post-war reconstruction
- Kennedy, Johnson and Nixon; New Frontier; the Great Society; Nixon and Republican revival
- Economic change and developments: the rise of the consumer society and economic boom
- Ideological, social, regional and ethnic divisions: McCarthyism; civil rights; youth culture; protest and the mass media
- The USA and international relations: the Cold War and relations with the USSR and China; the Vietnam War
- The USA by 1975: its place as a Superpower; the limits of social cohesion; new cultural developments, including the role of women and the position of African-Americans

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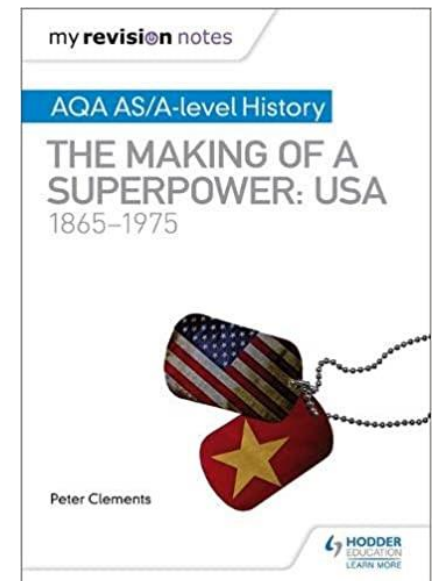
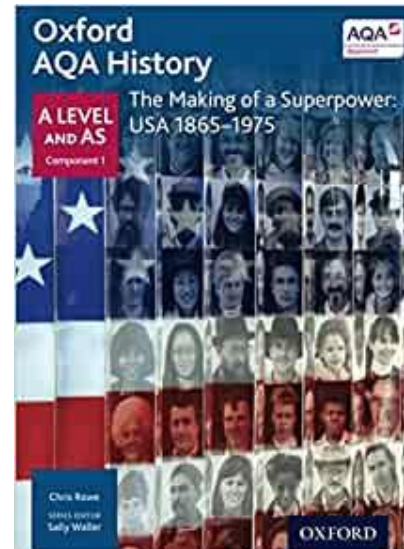
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- Revision Guide (£5 deposit) available from H3
- 1K Revision Booklet – ClassCharts/printout
- Your own notes and handouts from lessons
- Your core textbook
- Past Papers – found on AQAs website

[Click here and search for 1k](#)

- YouTube – Crash Course History



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History guide to extract analysis America Paper, Section A.
FOLLOW STEPS 1-6; start on green, and work your way round-
follow the blue arrows

STEP 1:
Identify arguments

DESCRIBE

- 1) Read and highlight. What does the extract SAY? What are the key ARGUMENTS made in this extract? Underline them ..

SUMMARISE

- 2) What does the extract argue in a sentence?
Extract A argues...

STEP 2: Quote

- 3) Use evidence from the extract to show how you have come to this summary.
It says '.....'

STEP 3:
Evaluate convincingsness – support argument

Now, answer the question.
How convincing are the arguments in relation to...

4) What specific and precise historical knowledge do you have which supports what the extract is argues? Be clear about which part of the argument you are addressing – quote from the extract and then support with your knowledge. Explain how it supports the argument..
It is clear that A is correct when it states '...' because (insert own knowledge)...This shows that the argument is convincing because...

(6) Summarise your opinion on how convincing the extract's argument is. This shouldn't come as a surprise, as your evaluation throughout your paragraph should have led naturally to this conclusion.
Overall, Extract A's argument is...

STEP 6: Give judgement on overall convincingsness of the extract in relation to the Q.

STEP 5: REPEAT STEPS 3-4, WITH SUB-ARGUMENTS. (2-3 for each extract)

5) You can only do this, if you have evidence to counter the extract. If you do not, DON'T FORCE IT.
However, where Extract A says '...'This is unconvincing because... (insert own

STEP 4: Evaluate convincingsness – counter IF YOU CAN