
GCSE

HISTORY

Paper 1 Section A/D: America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretations A and B for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03



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Interpretation A Adapted from a book by Felix von Luckner, a German visitor to the United States, written in the late 1920s.

Luckner arrived in New York in October 1926 and stayed for just over a year. Having been a naval commander during the war, he wanted to create goodwill towards Germany. Luckner earned lots of money touring America as an entertaining and popular speaker. In this book he wrote about his impressions of American life from the towns he visited.

Prohibition has been successful. The filthy saloons and bars in which the workers once drank away half their wages have disappeared. Instead, they can now buy their own cars and go away with their wives and children for the weekend or for a few days to the country or seaside. Crimes and misbehaviour that were caused by drunkenness have now declined.

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Interpretation B Adapted from a daily newspaper article written by Eleanor Roosevelt in 1939.

Eleanor Roosevelt was from a wealthy family in New York. Working as a high-profile campaigner on civil rights and women's rights, she met many different groups of people. Her husband, President Franklin D Roosevelt, ended Prohibition in 1933.

I was happy when Prohibition was introduced. Over time I realised that this law was not making people drink less. Instead it was turning people into law breakers. It seemed to me best to return to the time when, if a man or woman drank too much, they were injuring themselves and their family but it was not against the law. I cannot say that Prohibition improved the quality of life for young or old in our country.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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