
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



2 0 6 G 8 1 4 5 / 1 A / D

IB/M/Jun20/E3

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Interpretation A Adapted from 'The Roosevelt Myth' by John T Flynn published in 1948.

Flynn was a financial journalist who supported Roosevelt's campaign for President. He later criticised the New Deal and Roosevelt's decision to take America into the Second World War.

Roosevelt was a bad leader who damaged our economy. Congress lost much of its power in 1933 when it put billions of dollars into his hands. He acted like a dictator by spending this money as he wished and making any laws he wanted. He has left American businesses unable to grow and make profits as they used to.

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Interpretation B Adapted from a speech by President Reagan in 1982 to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the birth of Roosevelt.

In the 1930s Reagan voted for Roosevelt, listened to all his fireside chats and from that time always spoke positively about him. Reagan was a Democrat until 1962 when he became a Republican.

Roosevelt was a leader who cared about our great nation. He knew when it was time to transform government and avoid the mistakes of the past. I saw him at a campaign parade in 1936 and felt the wave of affection that swept through that crowd as he passed in an open car. He brought back the confidence that we had lost during the Depression. He reached out to men and women of different backgrounds and inspired them in difficult times, giving them new hope in war and peace.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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