



Cambridge Pre-U

HISTORY

9769/72

Paper 5k Special Subject: The Civil Rights Movement in the USA, 1954–1968

May/June 2023

2 hours

You must answer on the enclosed answer booklet.

You will need: Answer booklet (enclosed)

INSTRUCTIONS

- Answer **all** questions.
- Follow the instructions on the front cover of the answer booklet. If you need additional answer paper, ask the invigilator for a continuation booklet.

INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is 40.
- The number of marks for each question or part question is shown in brackets [].

This syllabus is regulated for use in England, Wales and Northern Ireland as a Cambridge International Level 3 Pre-U Certificate.

This document has **4** pages.



Roles of federal government

Question 1

Study the following documents, A and B, and answer the question which follows.

- A** *In a televised message, the president of the USA informs the nation of measures he had ordered to deal with resistance to integration in Little Rock, Arkansas.*

The Supreme Court has decided that segregation of education is unconstitutional. Disorderly mobs have deliberately prevented the carrying out of the court's order. I have directed the use of troops under federal authority to aid in the execution of federal law. This became necessary as the obstruction of justice still continues. Mob rule cannot be allowed to override the decisions of our courts. This challenge must be met and with such measures as will preserve to the people as a whole their lawfully protected rights. A foundation of our American way of life is our national respect for law. As a member of the United Nations, the USA pledged to uphold 'the dignity and worth of the human person without distinction as to race'. If the resistance ceases, a blot upon the fair name and high honour of our nation in the world will be removed.

Dwight D. Eisenhower, Address to the Nation, 24 September 1957.

- B** *Martin Luther King expresses his views of President Kennedy's approach to the Civil Rights Movement shortly after his assassination in November 1963.*

In his first two years as president he was indecisive.

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He had
the courage to be a friend of civil rights.

Clayborne Carson, *The Autobiography of Martin Luther King, Jr.*, 1999.

Compare and contrast the evidence in Documents A and B about the response of the federal government to civil rights. You should analyse the content and provenance of both documents.

[10]

Reactions to change

Question 2

Study all the following documents, C, D, E and F, and answer the question which follows.

- C** *A veteran leader of the Civil Rights Movement reports on a meeting of the White Citizens Council, established two years earlier, in the state of Mississippi.*

Senator Eastland discussed the potential registration and voting power of African Americans in Mississippi. Before him, a large map of the counties in the delta showed where the African American population was two and three times larger than the white. After carefully impressing these 'frightful figures' upon his audience he concluded, 'We must not be overrun; our way of life must not be taken away by usurping courts or by the subversive NAACP'. What he really meant was this: under no circumstances must the African American in the Delta vote. If he does, he will outvote the whites, integration will come, white economic privileges resting on segregation will be destroyed. It is the voice of fear: first, the white man's fear of losing their favoured position; then, their fear that if ever the African American wins equality, he will use his overwhelming political power to give the white man the same kind of treatment he has given the African American.

Bayard Rustin, *Fear in the Delta*, 1956.

- D** *The Congress of Alabama declares its right to reject the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in its ruling on the Brown v the Board of Education of Topeka, 17 May 1954.*

The Supreme Court of the United States asserts that the states did, upon the adoption of the Fourteenth Amendment of 1868*, prohibit unto themselves the power to maintain racially separate public institutions, but the State of Alabama asserts that it and its sister states have never surrendered such rights.

This assertion constitutes a deliberate and dangerous attempt by the court to prohibit the rights and powers of the states never surrendered by them.

Until the issue between the State of Alabama and the General Government is decided by a suitable constitutional amendment that would declare, in plain language, that the states do surrender their powers to maintain public schools and other public facilities on a basis of separation as to race, the Legislature of Alabama declares the decisions and orders of the Supreme Court relating to separation of races in public schools are, as a matter of right, null, void, and of no effect.

*Amendment of the Constitution guaranteeing citizen rights and freedoms under the law.

Laws of Alabama, Special Session, 1956.

E *A civil rights activist explains how peaceful demonstrations were treated by the police.*

I could cite many cases of police brutality in recent months during our demonstrations. At first the police stood by supposedly to protect the demonstrators. Then the white community, the White Citizens Council and the Ku Klux Klan elements, demanded that African Americans be arrested. The police began to pick up African American citizens and beat them on the heads with gun butts. We demonstrated non-violently but we have been blamed for the violence. Yet everyone in Savannah knows that every act of violence has been perpetrated by the riot squad. They use police dogs which are trained to attack only African Americans. Quite recently, a group called the Cavalcade of White America was organised to try to frighten African Americans so they wouldn't demonstrate any more. Immediately after that, one of the local white businessmen and a former city detective came out advocating violence.

Benjamin van Clark, *Siege at Savannah*, 1964.

F *The chairman of the Lowndes County Freedom Organisation, Alabama, explains why this political group was formed and how they were opposed.*

We were criticized as communists and black nationalists. When we decided to run African American candidates in the primary of the Democratic Party on 3 May, they decided to increase the registration fee. Two years ago, if a person wanted to run for local office all he had to do was pay \$50. This year the costs are about \$1400. So, we formed our own political group. We asked the sheriff for permission to use the courthouse lawn for a mass meeting, at which we would nominate our candidates, but he refused. We reminded him that last year he allowed the Ku Klux Klan to use the lawn for a huge rally. He wanted to stop us challenging the supremacy of Southern whites.

John Hulett, Speech, 22 May 1966.

How convincing is the evidence provided by this set of documents for the view that white opposition to civil rights for African Americans was primarily intended to maintain white supremacy? In evaluating the documents, you should refer to all the documents in this set (C–F). [30]

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