

**A LEVEL**

**Examiners' report**

# **HISTORY A**

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**H505**

For first teaching in 2015

**Y216/01 Summer 2024 series**

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## Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

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## Paper Y216/01 series overview

Y216 is one of 24 units in Paper 2 for the A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about 100 years through a short-answer essay question and a traditional essay question. The paper contains two questions, each having two parts, a short-answer essay and a traditional essay. Candidates have to answer both parts of one question.

To do well on the short-answer essay question, candidates need to consider the significance or importance of both issues, factors, individuals or events mentioned in relation to the question. Having analysed or explained both, they must reach a supported judgement as to which is the most important or significant.

To do well on the traditional essay, candidates need to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. To reach the higher levels candidates need to assess the issues they discuss and reach a supported judgement, at least in the conclusion.

A slight majority of candidates chose Question 2 over Question 1. This was probably because of the focus of part (b) on the outbreak of the Civil War.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• were clear about terminology</li><li>• had a clear grasp of chronology and, therefore, relevance</li><li>• could structure their ideas successfully</li><li>• could organise relevant evidence effectively.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• confused terminology in the questions</li><li>• had a muddled sense of chronology and, therefore, relevance</li><li>• struggled to give form to their ideas</li><li>• were short of relevant evidence.</li></ul>

## Question 1 (a)

1

(a) Which of the following contributed more to the opening up of the West?

(i) Cattle-ranching

(ii) Mining

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

This question produced a good number of competent responses. Most candidates displayed confidence when writing about mining, but were a little more unsure about cattle-ranching. Typically, material on cattle-ranching had something on the profits to be made and on cowboys. On mining, responses focused on the Californian gold rush, as well as the gold found in the Dakota hills; some also referred to the discovery of silver. Few candidates made much of the spread of farming after the Homestead Act, preferring to concentrate on the movement of cattle to railheads.

## Question 1 (b)\*

(b)\* 'The Bureau of Indian Affairs was the most important factor in the destruction of Native American societies during the period from 1803 to c.1890.'

How far do you agree?

[20]

Providing candidates had a reasonable grasp of the impact of the Bureau, this question produced a range of good responses. Other factors to rival the Bureau were government policy, division among the tribes, settler aggression and the impact of railroads. Exemplar 1 below (Level 5, 14 marks) is a competent response with enough on the named factor and sufficient balance with alternative factors to reach mid-Level 5. Ideally, the response could have had more on the Bureau, particularly on its dealings with the treaties made and broken with Native American tribes, thus explaining its mediating function between government initiatives and the Native Americans.

## Exemplar 1

The Bureau of Indian Affairs was an important factor in the destruction of Native American Societies during the period 1803 to 1890 however it wasn't the most important, rather it was a culmination of factors such as the introduction of Reservations in 1851 and several other US policies that persecuted the Natives throughout the period.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs was an important factor as proven by its failure to aid the Native tribes effectively after its founding in 1824, emphasised by the corruption within the department failing to have the Natives best interests at heart. The Bureaus contribution to the destruction of Native Societies can be further shown by the establishment and enforcement of boarding schools which stripped Native Children of their names, giving them Christian names and starving ~~reservations~~ tribes of their food if they refused to ~~at~~ accept the process, all in an attempt to assimilate the Natives. This shows how the Bureau of Indian Affairs failed to have the best interests of the Natives at heart and as a result lead to the destruction of the Native Societies.

However, The Bureau of Indian Affairs wasn't the sole contributing factor to the destruction of Native Societies as proven by US policies such as Jackson's 1830 Removal act which gave him the Money and Power to forcibly move eastern tribes to lands in the west to make way for westward expansion, destroying the traditional tribal cultures. This also led to the destruction of the Cherokees who had assimilated and after many years of refusal resulted in ~~an~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~Act~~ <sup>the</sup> ~~and~~ <sup>later</sup> the trial of tears for the resulting Cherokees leading to 4000 casualties despite their acceptance of Western life, ~~the~~ showing that the Bureau wasn't the only means of the government that led to the destruction of Tribal Societies. Thus, this shows that while the Bureau of Indian Affairs played an ~~major~~ <sup>important</sup> role in systematically destroying the Natives, there were other factors such as US policies like the 1830 removal Act that also played a large role.

Continuously, the introduction of Reservations in 1851 is another factor that greatly contributed to the destruction of Native Societies, limiting ~~and~~ their hunting grounds and leading to a limit on Buffalo which was integral to their livelihood. Furthermore, the enforcement of the Reservations led to conflicts between Settlers and the Natives in the Dakota ~~and~~ War of 1862 during the lack of Supplies provided by the US

during the Civil War leading to the Natives retaliation of killing 800 settlers that only raised the hostility in the treatment of the Natives, involved by the Great Sioux War and the breaking of Fort Laramie by General Custer which following the conflict in 1876 lead to further destruction of their Societies. This is shown by the Dawes act of 1887; the final act of assimilation, which destroyed the reservations and the communities that had managed to survive and divided the land into reservations & given to male Natives, creating US citizens, ~~the act~~ <sup>the act</sup> made the assimilation of the Natives complete and their Societies systematically destroyed.

In Conclusion, Whilst the Bureau of Indian Affairs was important in Aiding the destruction of the Native American Societies due to its failure to keep the best interests of the Natives at heart, it cannot be deemed the most important factor. US policies such as the Removal Act of 1830, the 1851 Indian Appropriations Act and the 1887 Dawes Act were essential in aiding the downfall of the Native Societies as a result of the US government aims to systematically assimilate them into US citizens, ~~and~~ showing that the Destruction of the Native American Societies



was ~~whether~~ a culmination of many factors with a greater emphasis on US policies, while the Bureau of Indian Affairs was still important, just not the most integral factor in the Destruction of Native Societies from 1803 to 1890.

### Question 2 (a)

2

(a) Which of the following had the greater impact on Native Americans in the 19th century?

(i) The Indian Removal Act (1830)

(ii) The Dawes Act (1887)

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

Most candidates found this question relatively straightforward. It was, naturally, a test of knowledge and of the ability to supply relevant detail about both of the named factors. The judgement offered some scope as either could be argued to have the greater impact, the Removal Act because it initiated a series of policies that marginalised Native Americans and the Dawes Act because it was a comprehensive 'solution' to the Native American problem. Better responses played down the impact of the Dawes Act for the 19<sup>th</sup> century as a whole as it only came in 1887. Exemplar 2 below (Level 4, 6 marks) treats both factors effectively but lacks development in the judgement, hence Level 4.

## Exemplar 2

2	a	<p>Arguably the Indian Removal Act <sup>(1830)</sup> had the greater impact on Native Americans because it set a precedent for the hostility shown by the federal government.</p> <p>Jackson's removal policy gave him the funds &amp; power to relocate Native Americans <del>because</del> and it also had the support of Congress which demonstrated the attitudes had changed in the federal government to a less peaceful one, moving away from Jefferson's idea of assimilation &amp; the <del>idea</del> use of reservations. Jackson's removal policy <del>showed</del> led to the Trail of Tears in 1838 where 12,000 Cherokee's were <del>forcibly</del> forcefully removed from Florida &amp; <del>for</del> travelled 800 miles which led to the deaths of 4,000 Natives. Similarly, the creation of the Bureau of Indian Affairs in 1834 followed this removal policy, relocating around 46,000 Native Americans. However, the Indian Removal Act wasn't a long term measure &amp; so arguably it can be argued that the effects of the removal policy were only short term, with &amp; Grant's Peace Policy in 1867 showing how the hostile attitudes had changed.</p> <p>Therefore, the Indian Removal Act had the greater impact because it uprooted</p>
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Natives from their ~~to~~ tribal lands ~~at the~~ in the interest of westward expansion.

The Dawes Act (1887) did also have some impact on Native Americans because it led to further assimilation of tribes.

~~The~~ This Allotment policy stated that citizenship would be granted to those <sup>who</sup> farmed a plot of 160 acres for 5 years. However, Natives weren't necessarily interested in becoming citizens & so merging into American society as this led to the eradication of their culture & ~~the~~ nomadic way of life. Similarly, many Natives who followed the Dawes Act ended up in poverty & so had to sell their land to white Americans, showing that it had a ~~ben~~ greater benefit to white settlers, rather than Natives. However, the Dawes Act was only accepted by the Navajos which demonstrates how the impact wasn't on as great a scale as the Indian Removal Act. Therefore, ~~while~~ the Dawes Act did have some impact on Native Americans, but not as great as the Indian Removal Act.

In conclusion, the Indian Removal Act

		had a greater impact on Native Americans
		as it set a precedent for hostility towards
		them & resulted in the deaths of many

### Question 2 (b)\*

(b)\* Assess the reasons for the outbreak of hostilities between North and South in 1861.

[20]

The most successful responses explored the wording 'outbreak of hostilities' to direct their answers in part to 1860-1, rather than simply trotting through a generic version of the causes of the Civil War. Commonly this meant paying due attention to the Election of Lincoln in November 1860 and its consequences, most particularly the immediate decision of South Carolina to secede from the Union and the rapid spread of secession among the Southern states. Usually this was supported by an analysis of the 'slave power conspiracy' and other flashpoints, such as 'bleeding Kansas' in the 1850s. Exemplar 3 below (Level 6, 17 marks) is a well-worked response, clear about the election of Lincoln, the failures of Buchanan and Pierce and the overarching importance of slavery. Support is good, for instance in the third paragraph on the failures of the 1850s. Overall, the response is well organised with a developed line of reasoning.

### Misconception



Make sure that the specific wording of the question is addressed, in this case 'the outbreak of hostilities between North and South in 1861' needed the focus to be on the 'outbreak' rather than all the causes of the Civil War.

## Exemplar 3

2	b	<p>There are many reasons for the outbreak of the war in 1861, some of these are differing economic systems, the failure of politicians and what I believe to be the most important reason, the issue of slavery as that issue drove all the other issues.</p> <p>One reason for the outbreak of war is arguably the different economic systems of the North and the South. For example by 1861 the North had begun to industrialise whilst the South had not. 97% of all firearms were produced in the North in 1861 and for every industrial worker in the South there was a factory in the North. Total industrial output in the North was 10x that of the South. All of this led to war as the North and South had different economic systems so policies by the government would affect each differently. For example after the 1857 Panic the lack of tariffs affected Northern grain prices far more than the South and helped lead to Republican victory in the 1860 election as Lincoln promised to raise tariffs and implement the 1802 Homestead Act. The South perceived this as unfair which is why after the victory of Lincoln the South began to secede leading to war in 1861. However this argument is a rather weak one as it ignores the great levels of interconnection between the North and the South, for example most Southern financing came from Northern banks and the largest customer of Southern</p>
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cotton was the North. Also by 1861 the North was only slightly more industrialised as seen in the presence of the Tidewater Iron Works in Virginia. In practice the South seceded over the issue of slavery which drove all differences in economic systems and it was Lincoln's perceived opposition to slavery that led to secession after his victory not his economic policies. For example the 1858 Lincoln Douglas debates were nationally published and led to Lincoln being seen as anti-slavery in the South. It was this that led to war as seen in the Mississippi declaration of secession where they declared themselves intertwined with the issue of slavery. Therefore differing economic systems weren't the reason for the outbreak of hostilities in 1861.

Another reason for the war is the failings of politicians. For example the Presidency of Buchanan and Pierce led to the heightening of sectional tension to the point that by 1861 war broke out. For example in 1854 diplomats of Pierce established the Ostend Manifesto that declared their intent to seize the slave island of Cuba by force. Spain refused to sell the island to them. This led to huge backlash in the North and for many was evidence of the slave power conspiracy. This led to Northern voters switching to the Republican party in the 1856 and 1860 elections which led to war in 1861. The Buchanan presidency also shows how the failings

of politicians led to war in 1861, for example his acceptance of the 1857 Lecompton Constitution led to a split in the Democrat party in the 1860 election with Stephen Douglas and Breckinridge running against one another. This assured Lincoln's victory and led to war in 1861, all due to the failings of politicians. However whilst politicians did fail most of these failures were driven by the issue of slavery, for example the 1857 Lecompton constitution was caused by the 1854 Kansas Nebraska act which was an attempt by Stephen Douglas to solve the issue of slavery using popular sovereignty. The actions of Pierce and Buchanan were crucial in developing the slave power conspiracy but this wouldn't have been an issue if slavery didn't exist. Therefore whilst an important reason for war the failings of politicians weren't the key reason but rather were driven by slavery to the point that war broke out in 1861.

The final reason for the outbreak of war is the issue of slavery. This was the key reason for war as it was Lincoln's personal hostility to war that meant after his victory in 1860 Southern states seceded which led to war. We know this as the declarations of secession tell us it was Northern hostility to slavery that led to secession which in turn led to war in 1861. This is seen in the Mississippi Declaration of Secession. Furthermore the

		1859 raid on Harpers ferry by John Brown is another example of how slavery caused the war in 1861. As Brown had planned to cause a slave revolt all across the South and for Southerners this confirmed their fears that the North wished to take their slaves from them. So when the Northern Republican party was elected in 1860 they seemed due to fear they would take their slaves, which led to war in 1861. Slavery drove all tension that rose from differing economic systems or the failures of politicians to the point that conflicts broke out in 1861. Slavery had also become a moral issue with the 1852 publishing of Uncle Tom's Cabin and the martyrdom of John Brown, and this pitted the North and South against one another. However, the impact of slavery morally can be debated as seen in that the 1848 Free Soil party more opposed to slavery due to its economic impact on white workers not due to moral reasons. Whilst this shows the limited impact of slavery morally and reduces the importance of slavery as a reason for war in 1861 it's still the most important reason as the issue of slavery drove all other contributors to sectional tension which led to war in 1861.
By war in 1861		
greatly contributed to war in 1861		
		In conclusion whilst there were multiple reasons for conflict in 1861 the most important reason was by far slavery. This is because slavery drove all



		the other reasons for war and apart from the
		issue of slavery the North and South were
		separated by very little. For example there were
		few cultural or political differences between the
		North and South except over the issue of
		slavery. Therefore slavery was the most important
		reason for the outbreak in hostilities between North
		and South in 1861.

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