GCSE
4271/03

HISTORY
UNIT 1: STUDY IN-DEPTH
The USA: A Nation of Contrasts, 1910-1929

A.M. MONDAY, 1 June 2015
1 hour 15 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS TO CANDIDATES
Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
Write your name, centre number and candidate number in the spaces at the top of this page.
Answer ALL the questions on the examination paper.
Write your answers in the spaces provided in this booklet. Use supplementary sheets when there is insufficient room in this booklet. Write your name at the top of each supplementary sheet, indicating clearly the number of the question you answer. Put the supplementary sheets inside this booklet.

INFORMATION FOR CANDIDATES
The number of marks is given in brackets at the end of each question or part-question.
You are reminded that assessment will take into account the quality of written communication used in your answers that involve extended writing. These are question 2(c) and question 3.
In addition, your ability to spell, punctuate and use grammar accurately will be assessed in your answer to question 3.
QUESTION 1

This question is focused on the rise and fall of the American economy. Study the sources below and then answer the question which follows.

Source A

By the summer of 1929, there were 20 million shareholders in America, and share prices continued to rise. But in October 1929 things began to change. Some people realised that prices had risen too high and wanted to sell their shares before they fell. Panic hit Wall Street. Nearly 13 million shares were sold on Black Thursday, October 24, and prices started to plunge.

[From a school textbook]

Source B

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Company</th>
<th>3 September 1929</th>
<th>13 November 1929</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Can</td>
<td>189</td>
<td>86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Electric</td>
<td>396</td>
<td>168</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>General Motors</td>
<td>182</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Radio Corporation of America</td>
<td>505</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Woolworth</td>
<td>251</td>
<td>52</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

[Official Wall Street Statistics showing the price of shares]

(a) What do Sources A and B suggest about the Wall Street Crash?
Study the source below and then answer the question which follows.

Source C

The ‘Roaring Twenties’ were not experienced by all Americans during the 1920s. There was severe poverty in the southern states, such as Mississippi and Alabama. Most black people in the Deep South were employed in unskilled and poorly paid jobs. This led to disease and starvation for black Americans.

[From a school textbook]

(b) Use Source C and your own knowledge to explain why some Americans did not share in the economic success of the 1920s. [6]
Study the sources below and then answer the question which follows.

Source D

It is better to sell a greater number of cars for a small profit, than to sell fewer cars at a larger profit. I believe this because it allows many more people to buy and enjoy the use of a car. It also gives a huge number of workers employment and good wages.

[Henry Ford, interviewed in an American magazine in the week that the millionth Model T was produced in 1915]

Source E

[A poster advertising the Sears, Roebuck mail order catalogue of 1927. Adverts were seen in newspapers, magazines and on billboards]

(c) How useful are Sources D and E to an historian studying the causes of American economic prosperity before 1929?

Explain your answer using the sources and your own knowledge.
QUESTION 2

This question is focused on the changes in American culture and society. [20]

(a) Describe the popularity of organised sport during this period. [4]
Study the source below and then answer the question which follows.

Source F

[The front cover of Life magazine in 1926. Life magazine was popular with young Americans and highlighted the social changes of the time]

(b) Why was Source F produced in the mid 1920s? [6]
Historians have made different interpretations about whether all Americans enjoyed the Jazz Age.

The following pieces of evidence refer to the Jazz Age.

Study these and answer the question which follows.

**Evidence 1**

This interpretation is written by an historian for a GCSE school history textbook published in 2001.

He argues that the Jazz Age was enjoyed by all Americans.

The ‘Jazz Age’ was the term given to the changes in popular culture in the USA during the 1920s. This term was used to describe not only the changes to popular music, but also to the dances and fashions that all Americans enjoyed. The decade can also be called the ‘Flapper Age’ to highlight the new social and cultural status of women.

**Evidence 2**

This evidence is from William Hays, a religious leader, interviewed in 1952 about his 30 years of involvement with the Hays Censorship Code.

He argues that the Jazz Age was not enjoyed by all Americans.

I had the backing of several religious and community leaders when I proposed my Censorship Code in 1922. We all had had enough of seeing nudity and sexual acts in films. Cinema audiences would leave the cinema thinking that they could poke fun at politicians, police officers, and even judges. Women were especially targeted, and were encouraged to wear revealing clothes and behave badly. I am pleased that my Code helped to control what audiences could see and hear in films and music.

**Evidence 3**

This evidence is a photograph of the premiere of The Jazz Singer, the first full-length ‘talkie’ in 1927.
(c) One interpretation is that the Jazz Age was enjoyed by all Americans.

How far do you agree with this interpretation?

In your answer you should use the evidence opposite and your own knowledge of how and why there are different interpretations of whether all Americans enjoyed the Jazz Age.
END OF QUESTION 2
QUESTION 3

This question is focused on the main political and social challenges facing America. [12 + 3]

Was organised crime the most important problem facing American society during this period? [12]

In your answer you should discuss the problem of organised crime, and other challenges facing America.

Marks for spelling, punctuation and the accurate use of grammar are allocated to this question. [3]
END OF QUESTION 3

END OF PAPER