

Please check the examination details below before entering your candidate information

Candidate surname					Other names				
Centre Number					Candidate Number				
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Pearson Edexcel International Advanced Level

Tuesday 2 June 2026

Afternoon (Time: 2 hours)

Paper reference **WHI03/1D**

History

International Advanced

PAPER 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation

Option 1D: Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA, 1865–2009

You must have:
Sources Booklet (enclosed)

Total Marks

Instructions

- Use **black** ink or ball-point pen.
- **Fill in the boxes** at the top of this page with your name, centre number and candidate number.
- Answer Question 1 in Section A and **ONE** question in Section B.
- Answer the questions in the spaces provided
– *there may be more space than you need.*

Information

- The total mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for **each** question are shown in brackets
– *use this as a guide as to how much time to spend on each question.*

Advice

- Read each question carefully before you start to answer it.
- Check your answers if you have time at the end.

Turn over ►

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SECTION A

Answer Question 1. Write your answer in the space provided.

Study Sources 1 and 2 in the Sources Booklet before you answer this question.

- 1** How far could the historian make use of Sources 1 and 2 together to investigate the disagreements within the Supreme Court about the *Plessy v Ferguson* case (1896)?

Explain your answer using both sources, the information given about them and your own knowledge of the historical context.

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(Total for Question 1 = 25 marks)

TOTAL FOR SECTION A = 25 MARKS



SECTION B

Answer ONE question in Section B.

You must start your answer to your chosen question on the next page.

EITHER

- 2 'Andrew Johnson's presidency (1865–69) had much more impact on the lives of black Americans than had Lyndon Johnson's presidency (1963–68).'

How far do you agree with this judgement?

(Total for Question 2 = 25 marks)

OR

- 3 'Progress for black Americans was so significant in the years 1954–68 that in the years 2000–09 there was little left to achieve.'

How far do you agree with this judgement?

(Total for Question 3 = 25 marks)

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Chosen question number: **Question 2** ☒ **Question 3** ☐



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TOTAL FOR SECTION B = 25 MARKS
TOTAL FOR PAPER = 50 MARKS



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Paper
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History

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PAPER 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation

**Option 1D: Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA,
1865–2009**

Sources Booklet

Do not return this Booklet with the question paper.

Turn over ►

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Sources for use with Section A.

Source 1: From the majority decision of the Supreme Court on the case of *Plessy v Ferguson*, 1896. The majority decided to uphold a Louisiana state law requiring railroads to seat black and white people in separate railway passenger cars. Justice Brown delivered the opinion of the Court, supported by Chief Justice Fuller and five other Justices.

Mr Plessy argues that this law is unconstitutional because it conflicts both with the Thirteenth and the Fourteenth Amendment of the Constitution.

It does not conflict with the Thirteenth Amendment because a law that makes a legal distinction between the white and colored races based on their color does not destroy the legal equality of the two races, or reestablish a state of slavery. Indeed, we do not understand why the Thirteenth Amendment is relied upon so closely by Mr Plessy in this case. 5

The aim of the Fourteenth Amendment was undoubtedly to enforce the absolute legal equality of the two races, but never to abolish differences based upon color. Laws permitting separation of the races in places where they might come into contact do not necessarily imply the inferiority of one race to the other. These issues have been generally recognized as the responsibility of the state legislatures. 10

The majority on the Supreme Court consider Mr Plessy's argument to be false. Plessy's argument assumes that the enforced separation of the two races labels the colored race as inferior. If this is so, it is not because of anything found in the law, but solely because the colored race chooses to believe it is inferior. 15

Legislation is powerless to change racial instincts or to abolish distinctions based upon physical difference. If the civil and political rights of both races are equal, one cannot be inferior to the other civilly or politically. If one race is inferior to the other socially, the Constitution of the United States cannot put them on the same level. 20

Source 2: From the minority opinion of the Supreme Court on the case of *Plessy v Ferguson* given by Justice Harlan, 1896. Justice Harlan was alone in disagreeing with the majority of the other Justices, in a 7–1 ruling in favour of rejecting Mr Plessy’s claim.

The white race deems itself to be the dominant race in this country but, according to the Constitution, there is no superior, dominant, ruling class of citizens. Our Constitution is color-blind and does not tolerate inequalities among citizens. In respect of civil rights, all citizens are equal before the law. The lowest is the equal of the most powerful. The law takes no account of man’s surroundings or color when his civil rights are involved. The arbitrary separation of citizens on the basis of race while they are on a public railway is a symbol of servitude. It is wholly inconsistent with the civil freedom and the equality before the law established by the Constitution. It cannot be justified upon any legal grounds.

I am of the opinion that the law of the State of Louisiana being considered is inconsistent with the personal liberty of citizens, white and black. It is hostile to both the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the United States.

It is true that Slavery, as an institution tolerated by law, has disappeared from our country. However, if similar laws to the Louisiana law were enacted in other States of the Union, the effect would be totally harmful. It would allow the states, by wicked legislation, to interfere with the freedom to achieve civil rights, common to all citizens, upon the basis of race. This would result in the legal inferiority of a large section of American citizens. Such a system is inconsistent with the guarantees given by the Constitution.

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Acknowledgements:

Source 1 from:

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/163/537>

Source 2 from:

<https://teachingamericanhistory.org/document/plessy-v-ferguson/>

