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History
Higher level
Paper 3 – history of the Americas

5 May 2026

Zone A morning | **Zone B** morning | **Zone C** morning

2 hours 30 minutes

Instructions to students

- Do not open this examination paper until instructed to do so.
- Answer any three questions.
- Each question is worth **[15 marks]**.
- The maximum mark for this examination paper is **[45 marks]**.

Section 1: Indigenous societies and cultures in the Americas (c750–1500)

1. Discuss the role and nature of tribute in **two** indigenous societies.
2. “Religious and political powers were always in conflict with each other.” Discuss with reference to **two** indigenous societies.

Section 2: European explorations and conquests in the Americas (c1492–c1600)

3. To what extent did the “Columbian Exchange” transform the economies of the Americas?
4. “Bartolomé de las Casas was successful in improving the treatment of the indigenous population.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 3: Colonial government in the New World (1500–1800)

5. Discuss the significance of the royal charters for political organization in British North America.
6. “Mercantilism had a limited impact on the colonial American economy.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 4: Religion in the New World (1500–1800)

7. Evaluate the social and cultural impact of the Catholic Church in Spanish and Portuguese America.
8. “The impact of the Puritans and Quakers on the development of religious tolerance in British North America was limited.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 5: Slavery and the New World (1500–1800)

9. “Economic motivations were not the main reason for slavery.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
10. To what extent was the opposition of early abolitionists to slavery and the slave trade effective by 1800?

Section 6: Independence movements (1763–1830)

11. To what extent did foreign intervention affect independence movements in the Americas?
12. Evaluate the impact of independence on **two** economies of the Americas up to 1830.

Section 7: Nation-building and challenges (c1780–c1870)

13. Discuss the importance of the provisions and philosophical underpinnings of the 1787 Constitution.
14. To what extent did the British North America Act of 1867 achieve its aims?

Section 8: US Civil War: causes, course and effects (1840–1877)

15. To what extent was the debate over states' rights the main cause of the US Civil War?
16. "African American participation had a significant impact on the outcome of the US Civil War." To what extent do you agree with this statement?

Section 9: The development of modern nations (1865–1929)

17. Evaluate the contribution of inter-American trade to the development of **two** modern nations in the Americas.
18. "Economic hardship among African Americans was the most significant impact of the Jim Crow laws." Discuss.

Section 10: Emergence of the Americas in global affairs (1880–1929)

19. To what extent were ideological factors the most important cause for US expansionist foreign policies?
20. To what extent did moral diplomacy affect US–Latin American relations up to 1917?

Section 11: The Mexican Revolution (1884–1940)

21. “Resistance to Porfirio Diaz’s political control was the most significant factor in the outbreak of the Mexican revolution.” Discuss.
22. Evaluate the achievements of Lázaro Cárdenas up to 1940.

Section 12: The Great Depression and the Americas (mid 1920s–1939)

23. Evaluate the impact of the New Deal on the US political system.
24. “The response to the Great Depression was mostly ineffective.” Discuss with reference to **one** Latin American country.

Section 13: The Second World War and the Americas (1933–1945)

25. Evaluate the social impact of the Second World War up to 1945.
26. Discuss the diplomatic effects of the Second World War in any **two** countries of the Americas up to 1945.

Section 14: Political developments in Latin America (1945–1980)

27. To what extent were economic factors the main cause of the Cuban Revolution?
28. “Political instability was the main reason for the rise of military dictatorships.” Discuss with reference to **one** Latin American country.

Section 15: Political developments in the United States (1945–1980) and Canada (1945–1982)

29. Compare and contrast the domestic policies of Nixon and Carter.
30. Evaluate the causes of the Quiet Revolution.

Section 16: The Cold War and the Americas (1945–1981)

- 31. Evaluate the reasons for US involvement in Vietnam up to 1964.
- 32. To what extent were Lyndon B. Johnson’s foreign policies successful?

Section 17: Civil rights and social movements in the Americas post-1945

- 33. Evaluate the impact of civil rights organizations on the ending of segregation in the south (1955–1980).
- 34. To what extent did Cesar Chavez advance civil rights for Hispanic Americans in the 1960s and 1970s?

Section 18: The Americas (1980–2005)

- 35. “Reagan’s domestic policies were effective in achieving their aims.” To what extent do you agree with this statement?
 - 36. Compare and contrast the economic challenges in **two** Latin American countries in the period after the transition to democracy.
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