

Draft- subject to accreditation and change

Paper Reference(s)

Edexcel GCSE

History Unit 4 Controlled

Assessment

CA5: Vietnam 1960-75

Materials required for the assessment

NXXXXXX

W850/.../57570

Vietnam 1960-75

The growth of protest in the USA and the end of the conflict

Here are two representations of protest against the Vietnam war.

Representation 1

Words from the song 'Feel Like I'm Fixing To Die Rag' (Next Stop Vietnam) by Country Joe and the Fish. It was written in 1968.

Come on all of you big strong men
Uncle Sam needs your help again
he's got himself in a terrible jam
way down yonder in Viet Nam so
put down your books and pick up a gun we're
gonna have a whole lotta fun.

(CHORUS)

And it's one, two, three, what are we fighting for
don't ask me I don't give a damn, next stop is Viet Nam
And it's five, six, seven, open up the pearly gates
ain't no time to wonder why, whoopee we're all gonna die.

Come on generals, let's move fast
your big chance has come at last
now you can go out and get those reds
cos the only good commie is the one that's dead and
you know that peace can only be won when we've
blown 'em all to kingdom come.

Come on Wall Street don't be slow
why man this war is a go-go
there's plenty good money to be made by
supplying the army with the tools of its trade
let's hope and pray that if they drop the bomb,
they drop it on the Viet Cong.

Come on mothers throughout the land
pack your boys off to Viet Nam
come on fathers don't hesitate
send your sons off before it's too late
and you can be the first ones on your block
to have your boy come home in a box.

Representation 2

From *The USA and Vietnam 1945-75* written in 2007 by Vivienne Saunders

It is difficult to tell how many Americans were against the war. In a poll in October 1967, 46% of Americans felt that it had been a mistake to get involved in Vietnam, but a massive majority of Americans wanted the USA to stay there and get tougher. This poll then showed widespread support and widespread opposition to the war.

‘I want us to get out, but I don’t want to give up’ one woman said to a pollster.

There were massive anti-war protests outside the Pentagon in October 1967. In the picture the ‘war criminal’ on the poster is President Johnson.



Perhaps media coverage of the Tet offensive in 1968 was the turning point. In the next few weeks Johnson’s approval rating in the opinion polls fell from 48 to 36 %. And a minority of Americans protested loudly.

Politicians took notice of the wishes of voters. The protests probably played an important part in bring the war to an end.

Representation 3

Your teacher will give you this.

Task

Choose the one which you think is the best representation of US public opinion and explain why. (50 marks)

In your response, you should use the knowledge and evidence gained from your enquiry to explain your answer.

Time allowed - 2 hours