

In developing your answer to Part III, be sure to keep these general definitions in mind:

- (a) **explain** means “to make plain or understandable; to give reasons for or causes of; to show the logical development or relationships of ”
- (b) **discuss** means “to make observations about something using facts, reasoning, and argument; to present in some detail”

Part III

DOCUMENT-BASED QUESTION

This question is based on the accompanying documents. It is designed to test your ability to work with historical documents. Some of the documents have been edited for the purposes of the question. As you analyze the documents, take into account the source of each document and any point of view that may be presented in the document.

Historical Context:

Since World War II, conflicts in Asia have played a major role in the Cold War. One of these conflicts arose in Vietnam. United States involvement in this conflict was sometimes controversial. The decision to send troops to Vietnam had a major impact on American society and on United States foreign policy.

Task: Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay, in which you will be asked to

- Explain the reasons for United States involvement in Vietnam
- Discuss the impact of the Vietnam War on American society
- Discuss the impact of the Vietnam War on United States foreign policy

Part A

Short-Answer Questions

Directions: Analyze the documents and answer the short-answer questions that follow each document in the space provided.

Document 1

. . . At the present moment in world history nearly every nation must choose between alternative ways of life. The choice is too often not a free one.

One way of life is based upon the will of the majority, and is distinguished by free institutions, representative government, free elections, guarantees of individual liberty, freedom of speech and religion, and freedom from political oppression.

The second way of life is based upon the will of a minority forcibly imposed upon the majority. It relies upon terror and oppression, a controlled press and radio, fixed elections, and the suppression of personal freedoms.

I believe that it must be the policy of the United States to support free peoples who are resisting attempted subjugation [control] by armed minorities or by outside pressures.

I believe that we must assist free peoples to work out their own destinies in their own way. . . .

Source: President Harry Truman, Address to Congress (Truman Doctrine), March 12, 1947

1a According to President Harry Truman, what is **one** problem when governments are controlled by the will of a minority? [1]

Score

b According to President Truman, what policy must the United States support? [1]

Score

Document 2a

. . . Communist aggression in Korea is a part of the worldwide strategy of the Kremlin to destroy freedom. It has shown men all over the world that Communist imperialism may strike anywhere, anytime.

The defense of Korea is part of the worldwide effort of all the free nations to maintain freedom. It has shown free men that if they stand together, and pool their strength, Communist aggression cannot succeed. . . .

Source: President Harry Truman, Address at a dinner of the Civil Defense Conference, May 7, 1951

2a According to President Harry Truman, why was it important for the United States to help defend Korea? [1]

Score

Document 2b

Another Hole in the Dike



Source: Fred O. Seibel, *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, May 5, 1953 (adapted)

2b Based on this cartoon, what problem did the United States face in Asia by 1953? [1]

Score

Document 3

THE NATURE OF THE CONFLICT

. . . The world as it is in Asia is not a serene or peaceful place.

The first reality is that North Viet-Nam has attacked the independent nation of South Viet-Nam. Its object is total conquest.

Of course, some of the people of South Viet-Nam are participating in attack on their own government. But trained men and supplies, orders and arms, flow in a constant stream from north to south.

This support is the heartbeat of the war. . . .

WHY ARE WE IN VIET-NAM?

Why are these realities our concern? Why are we in South Viet-Nam?

We are there because we have a promise to keep. Since 1954 every American President has offered support to the people of South Viet-Nam. We have helped to build, and we have helped to defend. Thus, over many years, we have made a national pledge to help South Viet-Nam defend its independence.

And I intend to keep that promise. . . .

Source: President Lyndon B. Johnson, Speech at Johns Hopkins University, April 7, 1965

3 According to President Lyndon B. Johnson, why was the United States involved in Vietnam? [1]

Score

Document 4a

. . . When the country looks to Lyndon Johnson these days, it gains the inescapable impression that Vietnam is America's top priority. Mr. Johnson uses the bully pulpit [power] of the Presidency (not to mention the Rose Garden) time and again to tell a painfully divided nation why it is fighting and must continue to fight in Southeast Asia. No amount of resistance—and it is growing—can blunt [lessen] his resolve. Few question his personal resolve on the Negro [African American] problem (he is, after all, the President who proclaimed “We Shall Overcome!” in a speech three years ago). But his public posture [position] here projects none of the sense of urgency that marks his Vietnam crusading. . . .

Source: “The Negro in America: What Must Be Done,” *Newsweek*, November 20, 1967

Document 4b



Source: Charles Brooks, *Birmingham News* (adapted)

4 According to these documents, what were **two** effects of the Vietnam War on American society? [2]

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Score

Document 5a



Anti-Vietnam War protesters march down Fifth Avenue in New York City on April 27, 1968. The demonstration attracted 87,000 people and led to 60 arrests. Also on the 27th, some 200,000 New York City students boycotted classes.

Source: *The Sixties Chronicle*, Legacy Publishing

Document 5b

This article appeared in the *New York Times* three days after the Kent State shootings.

Illinois Deploys Guard

More than 80 colleges across the country closed their doors yesterday for periods ranging from a day to the remainder of the academic year as thousands of students joined the growing nationwide campus protest against the war in Southeast Asia.

In California, Gov. Ronald Reagan, citing “emotional turmoil,” closed down the entire state university and college system from midnight last night until next Monday. More than 280,000 students at 19 colleges and nine university campuses are involved.

Pennsylvania State University, with 18 campuses, was closed for an indeterminate [indefinite] period.

In the New York metropolitan area about 15 colleges closed, some for a day, some for the week, and some for the rest of the term.

A spokesman for the National Student Association said that students had been staying away from classes at almost 300 campuses in the country. . . .

Source: Frank J. Prial, *New York Times*, May 7, 1970

5 Based on these documents, state **two** ways the Vietnam War affected American society. [2]

(1) _____

Score

(2) _____

Score

Document 6

After the Vietnam War ended in 1975, large numbers of Vietnamese refugees settled in Westminster, California.

“Little Saigon” in Westminster, California



Source: Bailey and Kennedy, *The American Pageant*, D. C. Heath and Co., 1991

6 According to this photograph, how have Vietnamese immigrants contributed to American society? [1]

Score

Document 7

. . . Within sixty calendar days after a report is submitted or is required to be submitted pursuant to section 1543(a)(1) of this title, whichever is earlier, the President shall terminate any use of United States Armed Forces with respect to which such report was submitted (or required to be submitted), unless the Congress (1) has declared war or has enacted a specific authorization for such use of United States Armed Forces, (2) has extended by law such sixty-day period, or (3) is physically unable to meet as a result of an armed attack upon the United States. Such sixty-day period shall be extended for not more than an additional thirty days if the President determines and certifies to the Congress in writing that unavoidable military necessity respecting the safety of United States Armed Forces requires the continued use of such armed forces in the course of bringing about a prompt removal of such forces. . . .

Source: War Powers Act, 1973

- 7 Based on this document, state **one** way in which the War Powers Act could limit United States involvement in foreign conflicts. [1]

Score

Document 8

. . . Fourteen years after the last United States combat units left Vietnam, at least 15 men who were there have made their way into Congress.

Each Draws His Own Lesson

Some are Republicans, like Representative David O'B. Martin of upstate New York; some are Democrats, like Representatives H. Martin Lancaster of North Carolina and John P. Murtha of Pennsylvania; some are conservatives, and some are liberals. Each has drawn his own lesson from having participated in the war, and each applies the experience in his own way to the issues of foreign policy he confronts as a legislator.

Some support military aid to the Nicaraguan rebels, some oppose it. A few favored sending the Marine contingent to Beirut in 1982, though most say they had grave reservations. Some see the Soviet threat in larger terms than others.

But the Vietnam experience has given almost all of them a sense of seasoned caution about using American military power without having the broad support of the American people. And this translates into some sober views on the limitations of force, especially in impoverished countries torn by internal strife. . . .

Source: David K. Shipler, "The Vietnam Experience and the Congressman of the 1980's," *New York Times*, May 28, 1987

- 8 According to this article, how has the experience of many Congressmen who served in Vietnam affected their views on when to use American military force? [1]

Score

Document 9

Comments on United States participation in Operation Desert Storm and Persian Gulf War, 1991

“By God, we’ve kicked the Vietnam syndrome once and for all!” So said President George Bush in a euphoric [joyful] victory statement at the end of the Gulf War, suggesting the extent to which Vietnam continued to prey on the American psyche more than fifteen years after the fall of Saigon. Indeed the Vietnam War was by far the most convulsive and traumatic of America’s three wars in Asia in the 50 years since Pearl Harbor. It set the U.S. economy on a downward spiral. It left America’s foreign policy at least temporarily in disarray, discrediting the postwar policy of containment and undermining the consensus that supported it. It divided the American people as no other event since their own Civil War a century earlier. It battered their collective soul.

Such was the lingering impact of the Vietnam War that the Persian Gulf conflict appeared at times as much a struggle with its ghosts as with Saddam Hussein’s Iraq. President Bush’s eulogy for the Vietnam syndrome may therefore be premature. Success in the Gulf War no doubt raised the nation’s confidence in its foreign policy leadership and its military institutions and weakened long-standing inhibitions against intervention abroad. Still it seems doubtful that military victory over a nation with a population less than one-third of Vietnam in a conflict fought under the most favorable circumstances could expunge [erase] deeply encrusted and still painful memories of an earlier and very different kind of war. . . .

Source: George C. Herring, “America and Vietnam: The Unending War,” *Foreign Affairs*, Winter 1991/92

9 According to this document, what was **one** impact of the Vietnam War on United States foreign policy? [1]

Score

Part B

Essay

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs, and a conclusion. Use evidence from *at least five* documents in the body of the essay. Support your response with relevant facts, examples, and details. Include additional outside information.

Historical Context:

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Task: Using information from the documents and your knowledge of United States history, write an essay in which you

- Explain the reasons for United States involvement in Vietnam
- Discuss the impact of the Vietnam War on American society
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Guidelines:

In your essay, be sure to:

- Develop all aspects of the task
- Incorporate information from *at least five* documents
- Incorporate relevant outside information
- Support the theme with relevant facts, examples, and details
- Use a logical and clear plan of organization, including an introduction and conclusion that are beyond a restatement of the theme