This is a Class 3 exam

Lebanon Evangelical School for Boys and Girls

Lebanon Evangelical School
for Boys and Girls Loueizeh - Baabda

SE02 Exam

15DEC2025

Do NOT write in this box. Your MARK will be placed here.

Subject :	History	
Class :	12A	
Teacher :	Dr. Mark Woolmer	
Duration :	2 hours	
You are to answer the questions to this exam on : Lined paper		
Your name :		*Time taken to complete exam*
Your Class :		
Exam Room :		
How many sheets, including cover sheet :		

- Do not open this paper until the teacher in charge instructs you to do so.
- The most important thing to remember in taking an exam is NEVER PANIC.
- If you are caught cheating in this exam, you will be awarded zero for ALL exams that are taken on this day.

Civil Rights and Race Relations in the USA

SECTION A

Study Sources 1 and 2 before answering the question.

1) How far could the historian make use of Sources 1 and 2 together for an enquiry into attitudes towards violent black protest in the mid-1960s?

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

(Total mark for question = 25)

Sources

Source 1: From a speech by Malcolm X at a New York press conference, 12 March 1964.

Because 1964 threatens to be a very explosive year on the racial front, and because I myself intend to be very active in every phase of the American Negro struggle for human rights, I have called this press conference in order to clarify my own position in the struggle – especially in regard to non-violence.

Concerning non-violence: it is criminal not to teach a man to defend himself when he is the constant victim of brutal attacks. It is legal and lawful to own a shotgun or a rifle. We believe in obeying the law.

In areas where our people are the constant victims of brutality, and the government seems unwilling or unable to protect them, we should form rifle clubs that can be used to defend our lives and our property in times of emergency. When our people are bitten by dogs, they are within their rights to kill those dogs.

We should be peaceful and law-abiding – but the time has come for the American Negro to fight back in self-defence whenever and wherever he is being unjustly and unlawfully attacked.

If the government thinks I am wrong for saying this, then let the government start doing its job.

***** Source Two can be found on the following page *****

Source 2: From a letter sent by Sir Patrick Dean, British Ambassador to the USA, 5 August 1966. The letter was sent to the British Foreign Office in London to update them on developments in the civil rights movement. The letter was headed 'Confidential.'

One of the most significant new features has undoubtedly been the emergence of the slogan 'Black Power'. The slogan has rather an alarming ring about it, with implications of violence and extremism and a blatant appeal to racism. In fact no-one seems to know exactly what it means, and perhaps this was deliberate. It is a striking slogan which could lend itself to all kinds of interpretations according to the needs of the moment. Nonetheless attempts have been made to define it because many people regard it as the battle-cry of black violence.

However, the main significance of Black Power is that it has threatened to split the civil rights movement. Earlier this month the slogan Black Power was used constantly at the CORE convention, and, according to the Press, was adopted as the dominant philosophy of the movement. It was clear that as the use of the slogan became more common and was given more publicity, the other civil rights movements and the public as a whole would be bound to react.

It was obvious that somebody with Martin Luther King's viewpoint would disagree profoundly with it, and he made his opposition known at once. So did Roy Wilkins, Director of the NAACP at their convention, who told his audience that the slogan meant "anti-White power..... and we will have none of this". The strength of the reaction from the more moderate negro leaders and the government all contributed to second thoughts on the part of those who spread the slogan, and subsequently to a toning down of statements by the more militant negro leaders.

President Johnson said he was not interested in black power or white power but only with democracy. He came out with a strong warning that most of the non-negro population wanted to see equality and justice given to their fellow citizens. But they wanted this under the law and without violence.

***** Section B can be found on the following page *****

SECTION B

Answer **ONE** question in Section B.

EITHER

2. The election, in 2008, of Barack Obama as President, was the most significant event for black Americans in the years 1954–2009.'

   How far do you agree with this statement?

(Total for Question 2 = 25 marks)

OR

3. 'The Montgomery Bus Boycott had the most impact on the civil rights movement in the years 1954–2009.

   How far do you agree with this statement?

(Total for Question 3 = 25 marks)

END

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However, the main significance of Black Power is that it has threatened to split the civil rights movement. Earlier this month the slogan Black Power was used constantly at the CORE convention, and, according to the Press, was adopted as the dominant philosophy of the movement. It was clear that as the use of the slogan became more common and was given more publicity, the other civil rights movements and the public as a whole would be bound to react.

It was obvious that somebody with Martin Luther King's viewpoint would disagree profoundly with it, and he made his opposition known at once. So did Roy Wilkins, Director of the NAACP at their convention, who told his audience that the slogan meant "anti-White power..... and we will have none of this". The strength of the reaction from the more moderate negro leaders and the government all contributed to second thoughts on the part of those who spread the slogan, and subsequently to a toning down of statements by the more militant negro leaders.

President Johnson said he was not interested in black power or white power but only with democracy. He came out with a strong warning that most of the non-negro population wanted to see equality and justice given to their fellow citizens. But they wanted this under the law and without violence.

Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on the statement that the Montgomery Bus Boycott had the most impact on the civil rights movement in the years 1954-2009.
Arguments and evidence supporting the statement should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include:

- The Boycott brought Martin Luther King to national prominence as a civil rights campaigner and he used this to become the figurehead of the movement over the next decade
- The Boycott represented a more direct attitude to protest on behalf of the NAACP. Rosa Parks was deliberately chosen to test racial segregation on public buses with the aim of using this to dismantle the Jim Crow laws
- The Boycott enshrined the principle of non-violent protest as the central platform of protest for the civil rights movement
- The legal challenge to the Boycott culminated in the Supreme Court ruling, Browder v Gayle, which ruled that segregation on public transport violated the 14th Amendment and so re-energised the civil rights movement
- The Boycott led to the foundation of other campaigning groups, such as the Southern Christian Leadership Conference thereby broadening the civil rights movement.

Arguments and evidence opposing the statement should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include:

- The impact of Civil rights campaign groups, such as the NAACP and CORE, had existed before the Boycott and continued to do so afterwards
- Landmark Supreme Court judgements such as Brown v Board of Education had profound effects on the movement by enabling legal challenges to segregation in all areas of society
- The protests in 1963 in places such as Birmingham Alabama, were peaceful, yet deliberately provocative, with a view to mobilising television audiences to apply political pressure
- The Civil Rights Acts of 1964 and 1968 as well as the Voting Rights Act 1965 gave encouragement to the movement to broaden their campaigns to target economic equality especially in the cities
- The growth of a black middle class and increasing educational and political opportunities, especially after 2000, led to a decline in direct campaigning and organised protest
- The 2008 election of Barack Obama, as President, was symbolically important, either being viewed as a culmination of decades work, or a springboard for more progress by the movement.

***** Section B can be found on the following page *****

SECTION B

Answer **ONE** question in Section B.

EITHER

2. The election, in 2008, of Barack Obama as President, was the most significant event for black Americans in the years 1954–2009.'

   How far do you agree with this statement?

(Total for Question 2 = 25 marks)

Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on the statement that the election, in 2008, of Barack Obama as President, was the most significant event for black Americans in the years 1954-2009 Arguments and evidence supporting the statement should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include:

- Obama's election was a symbolically important event for the black community as he was the first black American President
- The modernity and slickness of Obama's campaign was a significant event in highlighting how the changing geography of black voters could be utilised to effect change in American politics
- Obama's election was significant, to many, for the message it projected to the international community about America being more politically comfortable with diversity
- Obama's election produced a white, conservative backlash.

Arguments and evidence opposing the statement should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include:

- The Brown decision (1954) was a more significant event as it sounded the death knell for the Jim Crow Laws throughout the United States and was a catalyst in launching the modern Civil Rights Movement
- The Brown ruling was vital in overturning Plessy v Ferguson 1896, which had controversially and divisively created the concept of 'separate but equal'
- The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a hugely significant event as it helped launch the career of Martin Luther King and highlighted how peaceful action could lead to meaningful change for black Americans
- The passing of the Civil Rights Act 1964 and the Voting Rights Act 1965 were more significant events as they provided a legislative canon for advancing the rights of black Americans
- The assassination of King (1968) was a hugely significant event for black American advocates to rally around and later led to a national day of remembrance, officially observed in all 50 states for the first time in 2000.

OR

3. 'The Montgomery Bus Boycott had the most impact on the civil rights movement in the years 1954–2009.

   How far do you agree with this statement?

(Total for Question 3 = 25 marks)

Candidates are expected to reach a judgement on the statement that the Montgomery Bus Boycott had the most impact on the civil rights movement in the years 1954-2009.

Arguments and evidence supporting the statement should be analysed and evaluated. Relevant points may include:

- The Boycott brought Martin Luther King to national prominence as a civil rights campaigner and he used this to become the figurehead of the movement over the next decade
- The Boycott represented a more direct attitude to protest on behalf of the NAACP. Rosa Parks was deliberately chosen to test racial segregation on public buses with the aim of using this to dismantle the Jim Crow laws
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The 2008 election of Barack Obama, as President, was symbolically important, either being viewed as a culmination of decades work, or a springboard for more progress by the movement.

END