INSTRUCTIONS:

1. This exam requires that you answer three questions from this question paper. Each of the three essays should make a clear argument, and be backed with historically detailed evidence. Each essay has equal weight in marks. As this is a three-hour exam, please allot about one hour per essay. There should be no overlap of material in the three answers you provide.

2. Use a separate book for each answer and indicate on that book which question you are answering.

3. This question paper consists of two (2) pages: ensure you have both.

Question 1

“War is Hell. But for millions of Americans on the home front, World War II was a hell of a war” (Mark Left). Critically discuss this statement with reference to the role of women.

Question 2

In your opinion, was the Cold War inevitable? If not, was the United States or the USSR more to blame? Discuss the origins of the Cold War in the period 1945-1953, outlining the historiographical debate and your position in the dispute.

Question 3

What were the causes of the American economic boom of the 1950s? What social, political and economic impact did prosperity have on the nation?

Question 4

Critically evaluate the usefulness of oral history with particular reference to either the life and death of Emmett Till or the experience of American Vietnam War veterans.

Question 5

‘As the movement towards desegregation gained momentum, the measures employed by white supremacists . . . became more violent’ (Manning Marable). Discuss the Civil Rights movement of the 1950s in the light of this statement.
Question 6

Critically evaluate the issues at stake in the 1961 Berlin Crisis and in the Cuban missile crisis of 1962. What role, if any, do you consider that biographers of Kennedy and Khrushchev could contribute to an understanding of the crises and their resolution?

Question 7

Account for the escalating United States commitment to Vietnam in the period 1965 – 1973, and explain why it took the US so long to withdraw from the war.

Question 8

Assess the aims, tactics and achievements of the Students for a Democratic Society (SDS) in the period 1960-1970, with particular emphasis on how and why the movement was formed and how it dealt with issues of gender and class.

Question 9

“The sixties and early seventies were years of extraordinary political and cultural unrest in the United States” (Norton and Alexander). Discuss this statement with reference to the women’s movement in the period 1963-1973.

Question 10

Account for the rise of Black Power in the USA, explaining its philosophy and strategies, and the ways in which it shaped the Civil Rights Movement in the period 1963 to 1970.

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