

UNIVERSITY OF SWAZILAND
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
MAIN EXAMINATION PAPER MAY 2011

TITLE OF PAPER : HISTORY OF THE USA SINCE 1865

COURSE CODE : H406/IDE H406

TIME ALLOWED : THREE (3) HOURS

**INSTRUCTIONS : 1. ANSWER ANY FOUR (4) QUESTIONS
CHOOSING AT LEAST ONE FROM EACH
SECTION**

2. ALL QUESTIONS CARRY EQUAL MARKS

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BY THE INVIGILATOR**

SECTION A**Question 1**

Discuss the major differences between conservative and radical views on the reconstruction process. What were the reasons for eventual radical domination? **[25 marks]**

Question 2

According to Alan Brinkley, throughout the first half of the 19th century “the United States had generally annexed land adjacent to its existing boundaries into which American citizens could move relatively easily and which could ultimately become states of the Union” However, in the last decade of the century Americans became increasingly interested in expanding beyond their continental borders. Discuss the variety of factors that motivated the United States to move into a new phase of expansionism at the end of the century. **[25 marks]**

Question 3

How did the economic and the social problems created by industrialization lead to the rise of American Progressivism at the turn of the twentieth century? **[25 marks]**

Question 4

Describe the circumstances that led the United States of America to reject the Treaty of Versailles. **[25 marks]**

SECTION B**Question 5**

Discuss the causes of the Great Depression that began in the United States in the late 1920s.

[25 marks]

Question 6

How did Americans' attitudes about United States involvement in WWI shape their attitudes about involvement in WWII? Why did the United States eventually join the war in December 1941?

[25 marks]

Question 7

Discuss major questions that surfaced after 1945 about America's decision to use atomic weapons against Japan.

[25 marks]

Question 8

What is meant by the Doctrine of Containment? Discuss the specific programmes that implemented Containment in Europe during the early stages of the Cold War.

[25 marks]