



GCSE HISTORY

Paper 1 Section A/D: America, 1920–1973: Opportunity and inequality

Interpretations Booklet

Interpretations **A** and **B** for use in answering Questions 01, 02 and 03

Interpretation A Adapted from a speech made by President Ronald Reagan on 2 November 1983 after he had made a law creating a national holiday to celebrate Martin Luther King.

Dr Martin Luther King inspired our nation. He made equal rights his life's work. Across the country, he organised boycotts, rallies, and marches. Often he was beaten and imprisoned but never stopped teaching non-violence. On one hot August day in 1963, he addressed a quarter of a million people at the Lincoln Memorial and his words that day will never be forgotten.

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Interpretation B Adapted from interviews with Clayborne Carson, 2013. He spent his life studying the Civil Rights campaigns.

In his youth, Carson was a Civil Rights activist and he heard King's speech at the Lincoln Memorial in August 1963. At that time he worked with many ordinary people as well as the leading figures in the Civil Rights campaigns.

I have vivid memories of that day, but not of King's speech. My biggest impression was of the ordinary people I met there.

I have always believed in the grassroots nature of the freedom struggle rather than King's leadership. It was people like Rosa Parks who made it possible for King to display his leadership.

Without King, the Civil Rights campaigns would still have happened. Without the campaigns, King would just have been an articulate Baptist minister with no holiday named after him.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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