

AQA

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



2 5 6 G 8 1 4 5 / 1 A / D

IB/M/Jun25/G4005/E4

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Interpretation A Adapted from the autobiography of Cecil Roberts, 'The Bright Twenties', published in 1970.

Roberts was an English journalist and novelist. His books were international bestsellers. He had a celebrity lifestyle, travelled widely and stayed with wealthy people. During the 1920s he toured America to promote his books.

The American economy boomed in the 1920s. Everyone bought cars, radios and gadgets. Everyone invested in the stock market and made money. Everyone gave you advice on which shares to buy. One day in New York, even my barber told me to buy shares in the Standard Gas Company as they had already doubled in value and would probably do so again. As share prices rose, I joined the share buying craze and invested all my money in the stock market.

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Interpretation B Adapted from a report about the American economy in the 1920s written by Vladimir Voitinsky.

Voitinsky wrote this report for the American Government in 1945. He was a leading European economist who worked as an adviser for the American government from 1935 to 1960.

The American economic boom did not last because people stopped buying consumer goods. By the end of the 1920s, consumer demand had been satisfied. Like many industries, the growth in car buying slowed down. Many who bought shares made a lot of money quickly but later suffered greatly. Other groups, including many farmers, struggled to make money throughout the 1920s.

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END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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