



GCSE HISTORY

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

Interpretations Booklet

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

Interpretation A From a book written by Doris E Fleischman, published in 1932.

Doris was writing about what life was like for women in the 1920s. She was a famous campaigner for the rights of women.

It was totally confusing to read the adverts in the magazines that showed vacuum cleaners, fridges and hundreds of other household devices which should lighten the jobs of women in the home.

Women living on farms did a great deal of work besides caring for their children, washing clothes and cooking, as they worked in the fields and looked after the animals. The largest group of American women were the families of labourers, miners, steel workers and unskilled workers. The wages of the men were generally so small that the women had to do extra work.

Interpretation B From an article written about flappers by F. Scott Fitzgerald published in the 1930s.

F. Scott Fitzgerald was an American novelist who, both in his personal life and in his books, showed what it was like to be a rich playboy during the boom of the 1920s. He and his wife Zelda, who he called 'the first American Flapper', became symbols of the Jazz Age.

It was an age of miracles and an age of over indulgence. There was a generation of women who saw themselves as flappers – the wildest of all generations deciding to take as much pleasure as they could. 'Eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we die' was their motto. Although their grandmothers didn't know it, these young women had discovered alcohol and jazz.

END OF INTERPRETATIONS

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