

A4: The USA, 1917-29

This question is about the reasons for the introduction of Prohibition. Study Sources A, B, C and D and then answer all the questions that follow.

Source A: A poster issued by the Anti-Saloon League in 1919. It shows two children standing outside a saloon.



Source B: From an Anti-Saloon League pamphlet published in 1918.

The American's patriotic duty is to abolish the pro-German, crime-producing, food-wasting, youth-corrupting, home-wrecking, un-American liquor traffic. Alcohol has caused more than three quarters of poverty and crime and a half of the cases of insanity. It corrupts politics and public servants, corrupts the Government and corrupts public morals. It lowers in a dreadful way the standard of efficiency of the Nation and greatly reduces the national wealth.

Source C: From a speech to Congress in 1919 by a supporter of Prohibition.

Scientific research has demonstrated that alcohol is a poison. It lowers to an appalling degree the character of our citizens, thereby weakening public morals and democracy. It produces widespread crime, poverty and insanity. Alcohol results in disease and premature death for hundreds and thousands of citizens, and leads to their children being born disabled.

Source D: From a history of the USA between the wars, published in 1997.

Opposition to alcohol was mainly due to the work of groups such as the Anti-Saloon League and the Women's Christian Temperance Movement which had campaigned for years and won strong support from Protestant Churches. In the years before 1919, the campaign gained some very powerful supporters such as industrialists who believed that workers would be more reliable if they did not drink. Politicians also supported it because it won them votes in rural areas. The Prohibition movement gained even more support after the US entry into the First World War in 1917.

Study Source A.

- (a) What can you learn from Source A about the drinking of alcohol in the USA? (3)

Study Sources B and C.

- (b) How far does Source C support the evidence of Source B about the problems caused by alcohol? Explain your answer. (7)

Study Sources A, B, C and D, and use your own knowledge.

- (c) 'The main cause of the introduction of Prohibition was the work of the Anti-Saloon League.'

Use the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view.

(15)

(Total for Question A4 = 25 marks)

Level 4	<p>Sustained evaluation, explicitly focused on the question, reviewing alternative views before giving a balanced judgement</p> <p>The answer is supported by precisely selected evidence from three or more of the sources and own knowledge.</p> <p>13-14 marks for an explicit judgement on the importance of one factor. 15 marks for explicit judgement comparing the relative importance of two or more factors.</p> <p><i>eg As Level 3. The work of Anti-Saloon Movement was important as mentioned in Sources A, B and D because it raised awareness of the problems caused by alcohol and possibly influenced politicians such as the speaker in Source C. However, it was only one of several pressure groups, which campaigned in the years before 1919, including the Women's Christian Temperance Movement and the Protestant Churches. The more immediate cause of the introduction of Prohibition was the US entry to the First World War as mentioned in Source D.....</i></p>	(13-15)
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Total for Question A4 = 25 marks

① "The main cause of the introduction of Prohibition was the work of the Anti-Saloon League"

Source Evaluation • Use of Sources • Use of Own Knowl.
Use the sources, and your own knowledge, to explain whether you agree with this view.

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The Anti-Saloon League was a very important pressure group in the struggle for the introduction of Prohibition. It was established in 1895 and it campaigned

② directly via posters (like Source A), pamphlets (like Source B) and public meetings. In addition, it applied indirect pressure on political leaders, particularly those in rural areas such as the Bible Belt in the Mid West.

③ This can be seen in Source C where the speaker in Congress appears to use some of the same arguments ("crime, poverty and insanity") deployed in the anti-saloon league's pamphlet the year before.

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Typically the Anti-Saloon League would focus on the moral and social arguments for the introduction of Prohibition, and these can be seen in Sources A and B. However it is noteworthy that the 1918 pamphlet also attacks drinking as pro-German at a time when the USA was still at war with Germany.

④ In addition, it raised the economic argument and the idea of national efficiency. As such, the anti-saloon league was very important in the campaign to outlaw "the manufacture, transport and sale of alcohol" in 1919.

Develop
argument

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Back

- ① However, as Source D suggests, there were other groups working for the introduction of Prohibition. Some, like the Women's Christian Temperance Movement were motivated by Protestant values. Indeed, even before the Volstead Act some states were dry in the Bible Belt. In addition, some businessmen like Henry Ford felt "that workers would be more reliable if they did not drink". Finally, because many brewers were of German descent, when the USA entered the Great War in 1917 drinking was seen as unpatriotic (Source 1).

To conclude, there were a number of reasons that Prohibition was introduced in 1919. The Anti-Saloon League was not the only pressure group calling for a ban on drinking, it was by far the "main cause" because it was the largest, and had the best techniques (Sources A and B) and indirect influence (Source C).

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