

PART I: IDENTIFICATIONS

TWO of THESE will be selected for you to answer. Two points each.

Answers should identify the person, group, place, concept, theory, event, or item in several paragraphs. Answers should include a description as well as an assessment of the significance of the term to this class. In other words, why are we studying it? How is it relevant to the history of Vietnam and the French and American wars? (NOTE: Significance MUST be included in order to receive full credit.) When formulating your answers think in terms of what, who, why, where, when, and how.

Robert McNamara
“Vietnamization”
William Westmoreland
Vietnam Veterans Against the War
Agent Orange

Nguyen Van Thieu
Pentagon Papers
My Lai Massacre
Students for a Democratic Society
Martin Luther King, Jr.

PART II: ESSAY QUESTION

ONE of THESE will be selected for you to answer. Six points.

These questions are provided in advance so you can prepare yourself as thoroughly as possible to write coherent and detailed essays. The best essays will integrate substantial material from the lectures, films, and the readings and demonstrate your ability to explain the important processes at work. Think in terms of concepts, patterns of behavior, divergent worldviews and perspectives, and the ways that particular historical experiences can help you demonstrate that you understand “what happened.” Be sure to cite relevant facts from the readings (including primary documents we have studied), lectures, and/or films to support your argument. In other words, demonstrate the validity of your point of view; do not merely assert it.

1. Military dissent was widespread during the war in Vietnam. Explain why large numbers of Americans who served in Vietnam, including W. D. Ehrhart (be sure to cite substantial evidence from his book), came to oppose the war they were sent to fight. In what ways was this opposition expressed?
2. In the mid-1960s, officials within the Lyndon Johnson administration offered conflicting advice on whether to escalate American military involvement in Vietnam. What was this conflicting advice? And why did the proponents of the different perspectives feel that their advice was most appropriate?
3. Why was the Tet Offensive significant? How, in other words, did it affect the course of the war?