

### Teaching notes

Students sort the cards (pp.6-8) into big reasons including (introductory points), evidence and further explanation, making a rough PEE paragraph or its equivalent. This could be done in small groups, with the conclusion written as a team. This conclusion could focus on arguing that one or two reasons were particularly important. To push analytical thinking, students could also discuss the most logical order for the paragraphs, as there are links between the big reasons.

### Correct sort

Big reasons	Evidence	Explanation
Introduction and context Hint: look for general facts and figures which demonstrate that the economy did well after the war and prosperity increased overall.	The Gross National Product (GNP) of the USA had risen 35% since 1941.	(This cell is intentionally blank in the original image, but the explanation for this category is provided in the second row.)
	Consumer spending rose sharply as people who'd been unable to buy consumer goods during wartime now spent the money they'd saved.	
	In 1944, Roosevelt had proposed a substantial social welfare scheme to increase employment, promote fair wages and provide financial support to the old and sick. By the time the Employment Act was passed in 1946, the US economy was doing so well the new law seemed unnecessary.	
Servicemen returning from the war were given financial support.	The government passed the GI Bill of Rights in 1944. This provided grants to veterans to help them set up businesses or improve their education. Large numbers of ex-servicemen took this opportunity, leading the expansion of many universities.	Millions of servicemen returned to civilian life after the war. By providing support for them, the government enabled veterans to contribute significantly to the consumer boom.
	All veterans looking for work were provided with \$20 a week by the government, but so many jobs were available that only 20% of the funds set aside for this scheme were actually claimed.	
	Low-interest mortgages were offered to veterans, allowing many to relocate to the suburbs with their families.	
Many different industries boomed.	The number of cars produced every year quadrupled between 1946 and 1955.	The success of these industries was key to the economic boom: by providing jobs, they allowed more people to spend and borrow money.
	There was a huge increase in house-building. Demand for new homes was fuelled by the more affordable mortgages offered to men returning from the armed forces. William Levitt applied the idea of mass production to home-building; whereas most builders before the war built around 5 houses per year, Levitt's company could build thousands annually and sell them more cheaply.	
	Defence spending rose dramatically due to the Cold War, creating more demand and jobs in the armaments and technological companies.	

## Why did the US post-war economy boom? Essay planning

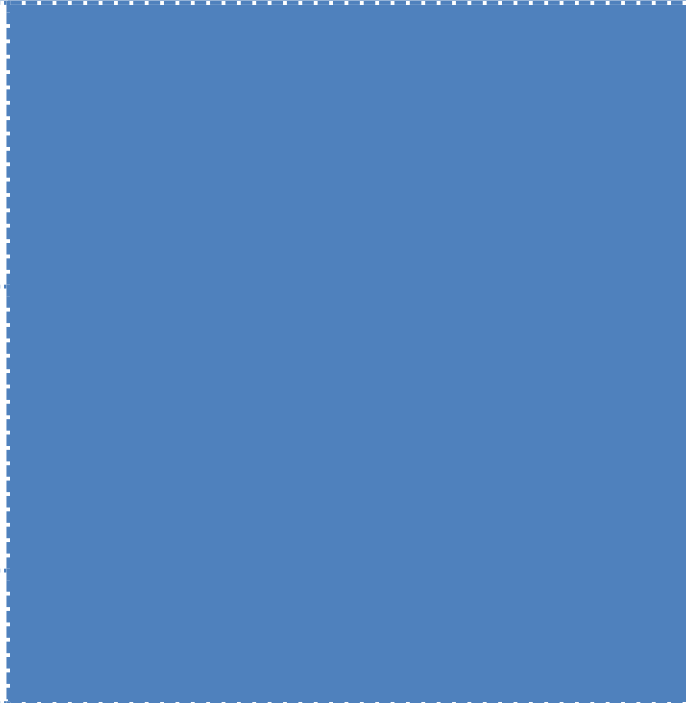
The basis of the US economy was shifting from manufacture to services.	Fewer workers were employed to produce goods. By 1956 more workers were 'white collar', meaning they provided services rather than manual labour.	As many workers earned more money, they could afford to spend more on goods and services themselves, contributing to the 'cycle of prosperity.'
	White collar jobs included managers of different departments in corporations, salespeople and other general office employees. More Americans than ever could call themselves middle class.	
	The benefits of white collar jobs were much better, with long-term contracts and higher wages.	
The Cold War led to increased military spending and more trading opportunities.	As tension and rivalry with the USSR developed, the government increased its defence budget, spending huge amounts on military equipment and the research and development of new weapons, especially nuclear ones.	The Cold War meant that the huge military spending that originally helped the USA out of the Great Depression continued after the Second World War. This also helped to create jobs, and, unlike most wars, helped the USA to trade as well.
	Factories and bases were built or expanded to achieve these goals, which created thousands of jobs. Often poorer areas benefited from the creation of new, local defence establishments.	
	The Marshall Plan was agreed in 1947. This aimed to help war-torn countries in Europe recover quickly from the Second World War, and stop Western Europeans turning to communism. However it also allowed these countries to become or remain reliable trading partners. Under the Plan, \$13 billion of aid was given to Western European countries, and much of this was spent on American goods.	
Consumer spending rose sharply, contributing to the 'cycle of prosperity'.	On average, Americans' disposable income rose by 17% between 1947 and 1960.	The 'cycle of prosperity' relied on people spending the money they earned through their work. With so many new products available and made affordable to them, most Americans could participate in the cycle.
	Accessible forms of credit allowed people to fill their new homes with mass-produced appliances and furniture, which they often paid for in instalments.	
	More and more new products became available. By 1960, there were more than 50 million TVs. Fridges and washing machines also became more common.	

Student version

Big reasons	Evidence	Explanation
<p>Introduction and context</p> <p>Hint: look for general facts and figures which demonstrate that the economy did well after the war and prosperity increased overall.</p>		
<p>Servicemen returning from the war were given financial support.</p>		

<p>Many different industries boomed.</p>		
<p>The basis of the US economy was shifting from manufacture to services.</p>		

<p>The Cold War led to increased military spending and more trading opportunities.</p>		
<p>Consumer spending rose sharply, contributing to the 'cycle of prosperity'.</p>		

Evidence	Explanation
<p>In 1944, Roosevelt had proposed a substantial social welfare scheme to increase employment, promote fair wages and provide financial support to the old and sick. By the time the Employment Act was passed in 1946, the US economy was doing so well the new law seemed unnecessary.</p>	
<p>There was a huge increase in house-building. Demand for new homes was fuelled by the more affordable mortgages offered to men returning from the armed forces. William Levitt applied the idea of mass production to home-building: whereas most builders before the war built around 5 houses per year, Levitt's company could build thousands annually and sell them more cheaply.</p>	
<p>The Gross National Product (GNP) of the USA had risen 35% since 1941.</p>	
<p>The government passed the GI Bill of Rights in 1944. This provided grants to veterans to help them set up businesses or improve their education. Large numbers of ex-servicemen took this opportunity, leading the expansion of many universities.</p>	<p>The success of these industries was key to the economic boom: by providing jobs, they allowed more people to spend and borrow money.</p>
<p>Low-interest mortgages were offered to veterans, allowing many to relocate to the suburbs with their families.</p>	
<p>Consumer spending rose sharply as people who'd been unable to buy consumer goods during wartime now spent the money they'd saved.</p>	

## Why did the US post-war economy boom? Essay planning

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<p>All veterans looking for work were provided with \$20 a week by the government, but so many jobs were available that only 20% of the funds set aside for this scheme were actually claimed.</p>	
<p>Defence spending rose dramatically due to the Cold War, creating more demand and jobs in the armaments and technological companies.</p>	
<p>Fewer workers were employed to produce goods. By 1956 more workers were 'white collar', meaning they provided services rather than manual labour.</p>	<p>Millions of servicemen returned to civilian life after the war. By providing support for them, the government enabled veterans to contribute significantly to the consumer boom.</p>
<p>White collar jobs included managers of different departments in corporations, salespeople and other general office employees. More Americans than ever could call themselves middle class.</p>	
<p>The benefits of white collar jobs were much better, with long-term contracts and higher wages.</p>	
<p>Factories and bases were built or expanded to achieve these goals, which created thousands of jobs. Often poorer areas benefited from the creation of new, local defence establishments.</p>	<p>The 'cycle of prosperity' relied on people spending the money they earned through their work. With so many new products available and made affordable to them, most Americans could participate in the cycle.</p>
<p>Accessible forms of credit allowed people to fill their new homes with mass-produced appliances and furniture, which they often paid for in installments.</p>	
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