PRIFYSGOL ABERYSTWYTH UNIVERSITY

Semester 2 2026

DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL POLITICS

IP26020/IP36020: THE PAST AND PRESENT OF US INTELLIGENCE

Time allowed : **2 HOURS**

Answer TWO questions

STUDENTS MAY SUBMIT ANSWERS TO THIS PAPER IN EITHER WELSH OR ENGLISH OR

Once seated, students may complete the front cover of the answer book(s) and the attendance slip ONLY.

DO NOT TURN THE EXAMINATION QUESTION PAPER OVER UNTIL INSTRUCTED TO DO SO.

Answer TWO questions

1.What contribution did intelligence make to American War effort in the Revolutionary War, 1775-1783?

2. Discuss the role of intelligence in the campaigns of the Union forces in the American Civil War, 1861-5.

3. How, and why, was intelligence integral to the attainment, and maintenance of US naval superiority in the war against Imperial Japan, 1941-5?

4. Assess the record of the FBI in countering internal 'opposition' groups and individuals between 1939 and 1975.

5. Assess the successes, and failings, of the US Intelligence Community (USIC) with regard to the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962.

6. Did US intelligence agencies fail the policymakers in Washington DC during the Vietnam War? Or was the US Intelligence Community (USIC) just not listened to?

7. Account for the roots, and discuss the effectiveness, of the reforms that culminated in the so-called 'Year of Intelligence' (1975)?

8. To what degree are the roots of failures of the US National Security State located in the failure to identify a clear and identifiable 'mission' after the Gulf War of 1991?

9. To what degree was the 'War on Terror' a diversion for the US intelligence mission from the greater long-term threats between 2001 and 2017?

10. What are the main threats facing the US Intelligence Community (USIC) today? Do they represent an insurmountable task for a declining USA?

END OF PAPER