

Candidate 6 evidence

Politics Higher Resource Sheet	
Candidate Name	Scottish Candidate Number
<p>Source One - Date accessed: 18/02/25 https://www.americanprogress.org/article/obamas-legacy-economy-anything-mess/</p> <p>Source Two- Date accessed: 18/02/25 https://www.jec.senate.gov/public/_cache/files/2c298bda-8aee-4923-84a3-95a54f7f6e6f/did-trump-create-or-inherit-the-strong-economy.pdf</p> <p>Source Three- Date accessed: 18/02/25 https://edition.cnn.com/2025/01/19/economy/us-biden-economic-legacy/index.html</p> <p>Source Four - Date accessed: 18/02/25 https://www.healthline.com/health/consumer-healthcare-guide/pros-and-cons-obamacare</p> <p>Source Five - Date accessed: 18/02/25 https://www.aft.org/hc/fall2024/chaney_harris_shoup_twomey</p> <p>Source Six - Date accessed: 18/02/25 https://yougov.co.uk/topics/politics/explore/public_figure/Barack_Obama</p> <p>Source Seven - Date accessed: 18/02/25 https://news.gallup.com/poll/116479/barack-obama-presidential-job-approval.aspx</p> <p>Source Eight - Date accessed: 18/02/25 https://www.thecairoreview.com/essays/obamas-tarnished-legacy-in-the-middle-east/</p> <p>Source Nine - Date accessed: 18/02/25 https://www.heritage.org/middle-east/commentary/obamas-ugly-legacy-the-mideast</p> <p>Source Ten - Date accessed: 18/02/25 https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/jan/26/trump-resumes-sending-2000-pound-bombs-to-israel-undoing-biden-pause</p>	

'Obama is the most successful president in recent US history' discuss

Barack Obama was President of the United States from January 20th 2009 until January 20th 2017. Since then there has been two more US Presidents. Donald Trump and Joe Biden. Trump was President from January 20th 2017 until January 20th 2021 and was later re-elected in 2025. Joe Biden was President from January 20th 2021 until January 20th 2025. Evaluating the success of previous presidents is important as previous Presidents actions affect future Presidents actions as what they do doesn't only last during their term. There are many different ways to measure the success of a President including analysing their economy, healthcare plan, looking at public opinion and the way they handled other countries / conflicts. Some experts may argue that either Donald Trump or Joe Biden have been the most successful US presidents in recent history however through an in depth analysis of the above

factors it will become clear that although Obama had some failures and Trump and Biden had some successes, Obama is the most successful US President in recent history.

One way to measure the success of a US President is by analysing their economy. Obama is widely regarded as having one of the most successful economies.

In January 2009 around 800,000 jobs were lost however when Obama later took office he added all these jobs plus more back. Obama saw the job market grow more than it ever had before. It continued to grow and add consistent jobs from October 2009 until January 2017. However Obama did have some economic failures federal spending and government debt rose significantly and public debt increased by trillions. This shows that although Obama did have some economic failures he had mostly successes as he was able to create so many jobs that helped so many people as now people who were unemployed due to a lack of employment opportunities were now able to find

employment. This will have increased so many peoples quality of life as they could now make a living and live comfortably. Source 2 Jec. senate. gov ran an article to find out if Trump created a strong economy, or inherited it and the answer is he inherited it. Obama added consistent jobs to the economy for nearly his entire presidency and in Trumps first few months he erased this and did not add consistent jobs. Biden on the other hand did not have as much of a successful economy as Obama however he was able to add over a million jobs during his four years. This shows that Obama had the most successful economy as he consistently improved the economy especially since he inherited the 2008 economy, he was able to help so many Americans struggling to find employment find it whereas Trump did not consistently add jobs to help Americans and Biden was able to add a significant amount of jobs it was nowhere near what Obama managed to do.

Another way to measure the success of a US president is by analysing their

healthcare plan. Obama created Obamacare which aimed to allow more Americans to access health insurance and protect them from insurance companies. Obamacare meant insurance companies had to put 80% of their premium insurance towards Americans to make sure that as many Americans as possible had access to adequate healthcare no matter how much they paid for insurance. Obamacare did not make it so everyone had health insurance but it made ~~health~~ health insurance become a much more possible thing Americans could afford. This shows Obama's healthcare plan or Obamacare did not just help people when they were in a situation where they desperately needed healthcare but it also mentally helped people. Many people were worried they could not afford ~~healthcare~~ health insurance so if they were in that situation they would have to pay out of pocket which was a highly unrealistic thing for people to do but Obamacare meant they could afford health insurance and could be more peace at mind as they knew they had health insurance. Another positive to

Obamacare was that employers had to put some money towards employess who worked over a certain amount of times health insurance however this turned out to be negative as employers started cutting down hours so they wouldn't have to pay for health insurance which lead to people suffering as their employers were not paying into health insurance and they were working less hours so had less money to pay themselves this shows a weakness to Obamacare. Donald Trump has been very critical of Obamacare on many occasions were he said he had plans to completely erase the ~~set~~ Affordable Healthcare Act also known as Obamacare. Joe Biden on the otherhand has been a lot more supportive of Obamacare and had no plans to erase it. This shows Obama had the most successful healthcare plan as he helped millions of Americans access adequate healthcare.

Another way to measure the success of a US President is by

Analysing the public opinion on them. Source @ yougov has public polls on Obama, Trump and Biden which gives an insight into how the general public feels about them. Obama has a 69% of the general public that like him and only 13% disliking him ~~with~~ with the rest having neutral feelings towards him. Whereas Donald Trump only had around 30% of the general public liking him and Joe Biden only had around 40%. This shows that ~~the~~ the general public have more positive ~~feels~~ feelings towards Obama than they do Trump or Biden. This measures Obama's success as if the general public does not like you, you can't be doing too well as President as part of the role is representing your country and the people who elected you as their President and if they dislike you, you can't be doing too well. However Donald Trump is only liked by around 30%, but he was only recently elected so the public's opinion can't have too much to do with it ~~otherwise~~ otherwise Kamala Harris who has a higher score would have been elected over him. This shows that

Although public opinion may not be a perfect reflection on your success as ~~for~~ president when it comes to that Obama is the most successful by far.

Another way to measure the success of a US President is by analysing how well they handled other countries and or conflicts. Many political sources such as source eight the Cairo review and source nine heritage.org. the popular belief is that Obama has a tarnished legacy in the middle east. During Obama's Presidency he was able to see the decline of Al-Qaeda, an international terrorist group behind 9/11. This is viewed as a ~~very~~ very strong argument in favour of Obama as he was able to ~~get rid of~~ eliminate some of Al-Qaeda's power by assassinating leader Osama Bin-Laden through a planned out navy seal operation thereby eliminating an international threat. However Obama's handling of Afghanistan and Syria is what really tarnishes his legacy as he was so eager to pull US troops out that it left both Afghanistan and Syria in

difficult situations. Joe Bidens approach to other countries and conflicts is mixed. Some praise him for the assassination of Osama Bin Laden as he was Obamas vice President at the time. he also praised for giving so many resources to Ukraine during Russias and Ukraines war. However he was repeatedly asked to call for a ceasefire in the Israel / Gaza genocide however he took far too long leading to a lot of criticism. Donald Trumps approach to other countries and conflict is mostly frowned upon. When asked about Israel and Palestine he claimed ~~protest~~ - Palestinians should just 'clear out' of Gaza and give Israel what they want. This was met with heaps of criticism as well as his meeting with President Zelensky. Ukraines President as people believed he was overly rude and blamed Zelensky for Ukraine being invaded. This all shows that whilst Obama does have a slightly tarnished legacy in the Middle ~~East~~ East overall he handled other countries and conflicts the best. He was able to send

Al-Qaeda into decline and eliminate a serious international threat which is viewed as a success by many.

In conclusion, Obama is the most successful US President in recent history. On the one hand his economy was great and saw the highest job market growth since 1939, his plan of Obamacare gave a lot of people access to health insurance, the general public have positive opinions on him and he eliminated an international threat. However on the other hand he raised federal spending and government and public debt, people got less hours at work, public opinion doesn't always equal success and he left Syria and Afghanistan in awkward places. But overall it is clear to see he is by far the most successful US president in recent history as he helped so many people in their life by just making small changes that would benefit the most amount of people as possible.