
A-level HISTORY

The Birth of the USA, 1760–1801

Paper 2G

Specimen 2014

Morning Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Paper Reference** is **2G**.
- Answer **three** questions.
In **Section A** answer Question 01.
In **Section B** answer **two** questions.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 80.
- You will be marked on your ability to:
 - use good English
 - organise information clearly
 - use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

Advice

- You are advised to spend about:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

Adapted from an open letter to a newspaper from 'Freeman of South Carolina', written in August 1774, in response to the Coercive Acts and the Quebec Act. 'Freeman' was a Southern plantation owner, William Henry Drayton.

Hitherto, I have opposed the local popular policy of this Colony. I thought the principles of action were unconstitutional. But now! Now, this 'Tragedy of Five Acts' composed in the British Parliament violates all the rules of the political drama and makes it impossible for me to say one word in favour of British Rule. Thus it is as clear as the sun at noon that:

the taxation of America;
the dependence of judges upon the Crown;
the violation of private property;
and the billeting of soldiers in America
are all unconstitutional, illegal and oppressive grievances!

They cry aloud for redress and our grievances are heightened by the threatening arrival of British arms, by land and sea, to enforce such oppressions and to compel America to bow the neck to slavery!

Source B

Adapted from an address to the New Jersey Assembly by Governor William Franklin, 13 January 1775. The Governor was Benjamin Franklin's son.

Gentlemen of the Council and Gentlemen of the Assembly: You now have pointed out to you, Gentlemen, two roads – one evidently leading to peace, happiness and a restoration of the public tranquillity; the other inevitably conducting you toward anarchy, misery and all the horrors of a civil war. Your wisdom, your prudence will be best known when you have shown to which road you give the preference. I shall say no more at present on this disagreeable subject, but only to repeat an observation I made to a former Assembly: "Every breach of the British Constitution, whether it proceeds from the Crown or from the people, is, in its effects, equally destructive to the rights of both".

Source C

Adapted from the 'Testimony of the People called Quakers', at a meeting held in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, 24 January 1775.

As our religious principles lead us to live peaceably and to discourage any disloyalty to the King and the British government, such as seen in recent declarations, we feel a sense of duty to declare our complete disapproval of them as contrary to the Gospel and destructive of peace, and we fear disruptive protests are likely to jeopardise the liberty of conscience for which our ancestors came to Pennsylvania. We must therefore publicly declare our opposition to unlawful resistance to our British colonial government, and to any associations planning rebellion, as we are led by God's law.

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With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the attitudes of American colonists towards British rule in the years 1774 to 1775.

[30 marks]

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2

'The decisive victory over France in the Seven Years War made it much harder for Britain to govern the Thirteen Colonies in the years after 1763.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 3

'French sea power was the decisive factor in the outcome of the American War of Independence.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4

How united was the United States of America by 1801?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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