

A-level HISTORY

Component 2G The Birth of the USA, 1760–1801

Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes

Materials

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 16-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 7042/2G.
- 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:
 - 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
 - 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From the private diary of John Adams, a lawyer and political activist, 17 December 1773.

It is amazing that last night three cargoes of Boston Tea were emptied into the sea, ending the evil taxation inflicted on our patriots by Governor Hutchinson and the customs officers. There is a dignity in this last effort by the patriots that I much admire. The destruction of the tea is so bold and so daring that it must have significant consequences that will be noted in history.

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What measures will the British take in consequence of this? Will they resent it? Will they punish us? How? The question is whether the destruction of the tea was necessary. I believe it was so. They could not send it back. There was no alternative but to destroy it or let it be landed. To allow it to be landed would be giving up the principle of taxation by parliamentary authority, against which we have struggled for ten years. It would be subjecting ourselves forever to misery, oppression, poverty, and servitude.

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Source B

From a letter to a friend, describing a Sons of Liberty meeting, by Gouverneur Morris, 20 May 1774. Morris was a conservative American statesman who supported British rule until 1775.

The port of Boston has been shut down. In short, there is no ruling the mob. They increase in danger to the gentry, raising the question of how to keep the mob down. It is impossible to restrain them. They correspond with other colonies, call and dismiss popular assemblies. They make attempts to sway the consciences of the rest of mankind by bullying poor printers and intimidate merchants to exert the full force of all their powers.

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These 'reptiles' begin to think and so reason. They are struggling to cast off their lowly position so they can bask in the sunshine. Before long, they will bite, depend upon it. The gentry should fear this. I see, with fear and trembling, that if the disputes with Britain continue, we shall be under the worst of all possible powers; we shall be under the control of a riotous mob. It is in the interest of all men, therefore, to seek reunion with the parent country.

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Source C

From an address to the New Jersey Assembly by Governor William Franklin, 13 January 1775. William Franklin was a loyalist and son of Benjamin Franklin.

Gentlemen of the Council and the Assembly: You have now had two paths pointed out to you. One path evidently leading to peace, happiness, and a restoration of public tranquillity, the other inevitably leading you towards anarchy, misery and all the horrors of a civil war. Your wisdom and judgement for the best interests of the people will be best applied when you have shown to which road you give preference, and which path you believe to be in the best interests of the people. 5

I shall say no more at present on this disagreeable subject. But, to repeat an observation I made to a former Assembly, every breach of the British Constitution, whether it proceeds from the Crown or the people, is, in its effects, equally destructive to the rights of both. I remind you that the most alarming feature of the dangers of liberty is when the leading men of a free country show higher regard to popular views than to their own better judgement. 10

- 0 1** With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying colonial attitudes to British rule in the years 1773 to 1775.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

- 0 2** 'By 1763, the relationship between Britain and its North American colonies had been strengthened by the outcome of the Seven Years War.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

- 0 3** How important was the military leadership of George Washington in securing the independence of the colonies in the years 1776 to 1783?

[25 marks]

- 0 4** To what extent had the United States achieved national unity and stability by 1801?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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