

A-level HISTORY

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

Friday 6 June 2025

Afternoon

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 AAnswer Question 01.

Source A

From an article by Benjamin Franklin, an official representative for several colonies based in London, printed in London newspapers, September 1773 and in the Pennsylvania Gazette, December 1773.

British gentlemen, you should be wary of your North American colonies. You govern them by severe laws and prevent colonists from enjoying the same rights as Englishmen, or the same privileges in commerce. Nor do you allow them any share in the choice of the lawmakers.

However peaceably your colonies have submitted to your government, shown their affection to your interests, and patiently borne their complaints, you deny them the rights and privileges of British subjects. You quarter troops among them, who by their insolence provoke the rising of mobs, and by their bullets suppress them.

5

By this means, you may in time threaten the colonists' loyalty to Britain. As the colonies increase in population, commerce and manufacturing, they believe this entitles them to the same rights and favour as Englishmen. You should be mindful that if you continue to punish them for their principles of liberty, they will establish a revolution and seek to break free from British rule.

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Source B

From an extract from 'Common Sense' by Thomas Paine, January 1776.
Common Sense sold over 120 000 copies between January and July 1776.

Only independence can keep the peace of this continent and preserve it from civil wars. There is ten times more to dread from a patched-up reconciliation with Britain, than from independence. Those that oppose independence will allow the eternal tyranny of the British government. If there is any reason to fear independence, it is because men do not see the way out. A government of our own is our natural right, and if we reflect on the precariousness of our affairs, we will become convinced that it is much wiser when we have it in our power to form our own constitution.

5

Our great strength lies in unity. If the colonies united, we would have the largest body of armed men of any power. The present time is right for us to fight for independence because the smaller our population, the more land available, which instead of being lavished by the King on his worthless dependants we could use to pay off any debts we suffer for gaining our independence.

10

Source C

From a speech to the State House in Philadelphia by Samuel Adams, 1 August 1776.

No man used to have greater respect for the English than I. But now when I witness foreign assassins paid by the English to drench their hands in our blood; when I tread over the dead bodies of my countrymen, neighbours, and friends; when I see a mother, clasping her infants to her bosom, and on her knees pleading for their lives from Englishmen who are guilty of betrayal and murder, I no longer have respect.

5

Now I observe my country, once a place of industry, peace, and plenty, changed by the English to blood and misery. Heaven forgive me if I am against giving in to the English who have acted so inhumanely and inflicted so much distress.

Take courage; we are three million people united in one cause. We have large armies, and well-appointed commanders superior in their military skill and zeal. We have arsenals and stores beyond our optimistic expectations and foreign nations waiting to support us in our revolution and crown our success.

10

0	1
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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 causes of the American Revolution.

[30 marks]**Turn over for Section B**

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0	2
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'Britain successfully overcame the challenges it faced in North America in the years 1760 to 1763.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0	3
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'American victory in the War of Independence was due to the mistakes of the British in the years 1776 to 1783.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0	4
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To what extent did Alexander Hamilton strengthen the USA in the 1790s?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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