



General Certificate of Education
Advanced Subsidiary Examination
June 2009

History

HIS2F

**Unit 2F Challenging British Dominance:
The Loss of the American Colonies, 1754–1783**

Specimen paper for examinations in June 2010 onwards

This question paper uses the new numbering system and new AQA answer book

For this paper you must have:

- an AQA 12-page answer book.

Time allowed

- 1 hour 30 minutes

Instructions

- Use black ink or black ball-point pen.
- Write the information required on the front of your answer book. The **Examining Body** for this paper is AQA. The **Paper Reference** is HIS2F.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- The maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- 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 45 minutes on each question.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.

Question 1

Study the following source material and then answer the questions which follow.

Source A Adapted from a letter from George III to Lord North, February 1774, reporting on news received from General Gage, Commander-in-Chief of the British forces in America

General Gage told me the colonists would act as lions if we chose to act as lambs. However, if we were to act firmly, they would be very obedient. He thinks the existing four regiments in Boston would be quite sufficient to prevent any disturbance. He feels Boston should be compelled to submit to whatever may be thought necessary.

- 5 All men now seem to feel that the fatal decision to repeal the Stamp Act in 1766 has encouraged the Americans' desire for independence. This desire threatens the obedience which a colony owes to the mother country.

Source B

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Source C The American Revolution of 1776 was not the result of American nationalism, which hardly existed at all, but of the failure of British politicians. At each decisive stage – 1765, 1766, 1770, 1773, and 1775 onwards – the London government gave way, with whatever justification or excuse it found. The authority of the British government

5 seemed remote. There were in London in 1775 over thirty different offices concerned with North American affairs, physically separate from each other, all involved in decision-making. Those men who knew the colonies, like Thomas Pownall, were never consulted, even after 1776.

Adapted from E WRIGHT, *The War of American Independence*, 1976

0 1 Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source B** differ from those in **Source A** in relation to the seriousness of the American colonists' response to British rule by 1774. *(12 marks)*

0 2 Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How far, in the years 1763 to 1776, were British politicians responsible for the outbreak of hostilities between Britain and the North American colonies? *(24 marks)*

EITHER

Question 2

0 3 Explain why war broke out in North America by 1756. *(12 marks)*

0 4 'British naval supremacy was the main reason for Britain's victory over France in North America in the years 1754 to 1763.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

OR

Question 3

0 5 Explain why France entered the War of American Independence in 1778. *(12 marks)*

0 6 'British defeat in the War of American Independence was the result of military incompetence.'
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

END OF QUESTIONS

There are no questions printed on this page

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Question 1 Source B: Adapted from IR CHRISTIE, *Wars and Revolutions, Britain 1760–1815*, Arnold, 1982. Reprinted by permission of Edward Arnold (Publishers) Ltd.

Source C: E WRIGHT, *The War of American Independence*, The Historical Association, 1976.