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# A-level HISTORY

## The Birth of the USA, 1760–1801

Paper 2G

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**ADDITIONAL SPECIMEN QUESTION PAPER**

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.
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**Section A**Answer Question 01

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**Source A**

Adapted from a speech by Benjamin Franklin, to the Constitutional Convention. Due to illness he had fellow Pennsylvanian James Wilson deliver the speech. Monday, September 17, 1787.

I consent, Sir, to this Constitution because I expect no better and because I am not sure that it is not the best. The opinions I have had of its errors, I sacrifice to the public good. I have never whispered a syllable of them abroad. Within these walls they were born, and here they shall die. If every one of us in returning to our Constituents were to report the objections he has had to it and endeavor to gain partisans in support of them, we might prevent its being generally received and thereby lose all the salutary effects and great advantages resulting naturally in our favor among foreign Nations as well as among ourselves, from our real or apparent unanimity. I hope therefore that for our own sakes as a part of the people and for the sake of posterity, we shall act heartily and unanimously in recommending this Constitution wherever our influence may extend.

**Source B**

Adapted from a personal letter from George Washington to the President of Congress, Arthur St. Clair which accompanied the recently signed Constitution.

In all our deliberations we kept steadily in our view that which appears to us the greatest interest of every true American, the consolidation of our Union, in which is involved our prosperity, happiness, safety and perhaps our national existence. This important consideration, seriously and deeply impressed on our minds, led each state in the Convention to be less rigid on points of less importance, than might have been otherwise expected; and thus the Constitution is the result of a spirit of amity and of that mutual respect and concession which the peculiarity of our political situation made indispensable.

That it will meet the full and entire approval of every state is not perhaps to be expected; but each will doubtless consider, that had her interest been alone consulted, the consequences might have been particularly disagreeable or injurious to others; that it is liable to as few exceptions as could reasonably have been expected, we hope and believe; that it may promote the lasting welfare of this country.

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**Source C**

Adapted from an anonymous Virginia Anti-federalist essay which appeared in 'The Virginia Journal' and 'Alexandria Advertiser', December 6th 1787

Our present constitution, with a few additional powers to Congress, seems better calculated to preserve the rights and defend the liberties of our citizens, than the one proposed, without proper amendments. Let us therefore, for once, show our judgment and solidity by continuing it. There are men amongst us, so dissatisfied, that place them in Heaven, they would find something to blame; and so restless and self-sufficient, that they must be eternally reforming the state. But the misfortune is, they always leave affairs worse than they find them. A change of government is at all times dangerous, but at present may be fatal, without the utmost caution, just after emerging out of a tedious and expensive war. Feeble in our nature and complicated in our form, we are little able to bear the rough posting of civil disagreements which are likely to follow.

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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 framing of the American Constitution.

**[30 marks]**

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**Section B**Answer **two** questions

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**0 2**

'There were major differences between the Thirteen Colonies in 1760.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]****0 3**

How important was Paine's 'Common Sense' to the outbreak of the War of Independence?

**[25 marks]****0 4**

'Hamilton's economic policy only benefited the Northern elites in the years 1789 to 1796.'

Assess the validity of this view.

**[25 marks]****END OF QUESTIONS**

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