

**GCE**  
**AS and A Level**

# History

**AS exams 2009 onwards**  
**A2 exams 2010 onwards**

## **Unit 2S**

### **Specimen question paper**

**Version 1.1**



**HISTORY**  
**Unit 2**  
**Liberal Democracies: Power to the People?**

**HIS2S**

<DAY>      <TIME>

**For this paper you must have:**

- A 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 HIS2S.
- 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 maximum mark for this paper is 72.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- There are 36 marks for each question.
- You will be marked on your ability to use good English, to organise information clearly and to use specialist vocabulary where appropriate.

**Advice**

- You are advised to spend about 45 minutes on each question.

**HIS2S**

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

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

**Source A** Adapted from ‘The Articles of Confederation’, 1777

Article 1: The title of this Confederacy shall be the ‘The United States of America’.

Article 2: Each state retains its sovereignty, freedom and independence, and every power and right which is not by these Articles delegated to the United States Congress.

5 Article 3: The states enter into a firm league of friendship with each other for their common defence, securing their freedom and their general welfare.

**Source B** Adapted from George Washington, Circular letter to the states on his resignation as Commander in Chief, 1783

I look forward to enjoying in private life the benefits of a wise and liberal government. Essential to the well being and survival of the United States as an independent power is both the union of the States under one Federal head and the peace amongst the people of the United States which will allow them to forget their local prejudices and policies and  
5 to make those mutual concessions which are necessary for general prosperity. In some instances people will need to sacrifice their individual advantages to the interest of the community.

Unless the States will allow Congress to exercise those powers allowed by the Articles of Confederation, everything will quickly descend into anarchy and confusion. It is  
10 essential to the happiness of the individual states that there should be a supreme power to govern the confederated republic. There must be a faithful acceptance by every state with the proposals and demands of Congress.

**Source C** In 1913, Charles Beard published his book, *An Economic Interpretation of the Constitution of the United States*. In it he argued that the main purpose of the founding fathers, all men of wealth who, were in many cases, holders of federal bonds, was to protect ‘the fundamental private rights of property’. He claimed that only a propertied  
5 minority were able to vote in the ratification process and that the Constitution had therefore never been democratically approved.

Adapted from W SIMPSON, *The US Constitution*, ‘very much a product of circumstance, has stood the test of time’, in *New Perspective*, 2003

(a) Use **Sources A** and **B** and your own knowledge.

Explain how far the views in **Source A** differ from those in **Source B** in relation to how the thirteen colonies should be governed. (12 marks)

(b) Use **Sources A, B** and **C** and your own knowledge.

How important were the weaknesses of the Articles of Confederation as an influence on the terms of the US Constitution of 1787? (24 marks)

**EITHER 2**

- (a) Explain why the House of Lords passed the Great Reform Act in 1832. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'Opposition to reform was motivated by the belief that the British system worked.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR 3**

- (a) Explain why France became a Republic in 1792. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'The reforms of the French Revolution introduced in the years 1789 to 1792 created a liberal democracy.'  
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 C: W SIMPSON, *The US Constitution* in *New Perspective*, Sempringham, December 2003. New Perspective / [www.history-ontheweb.co.uk](http://www.history-ontheweb.co.uk)

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