

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

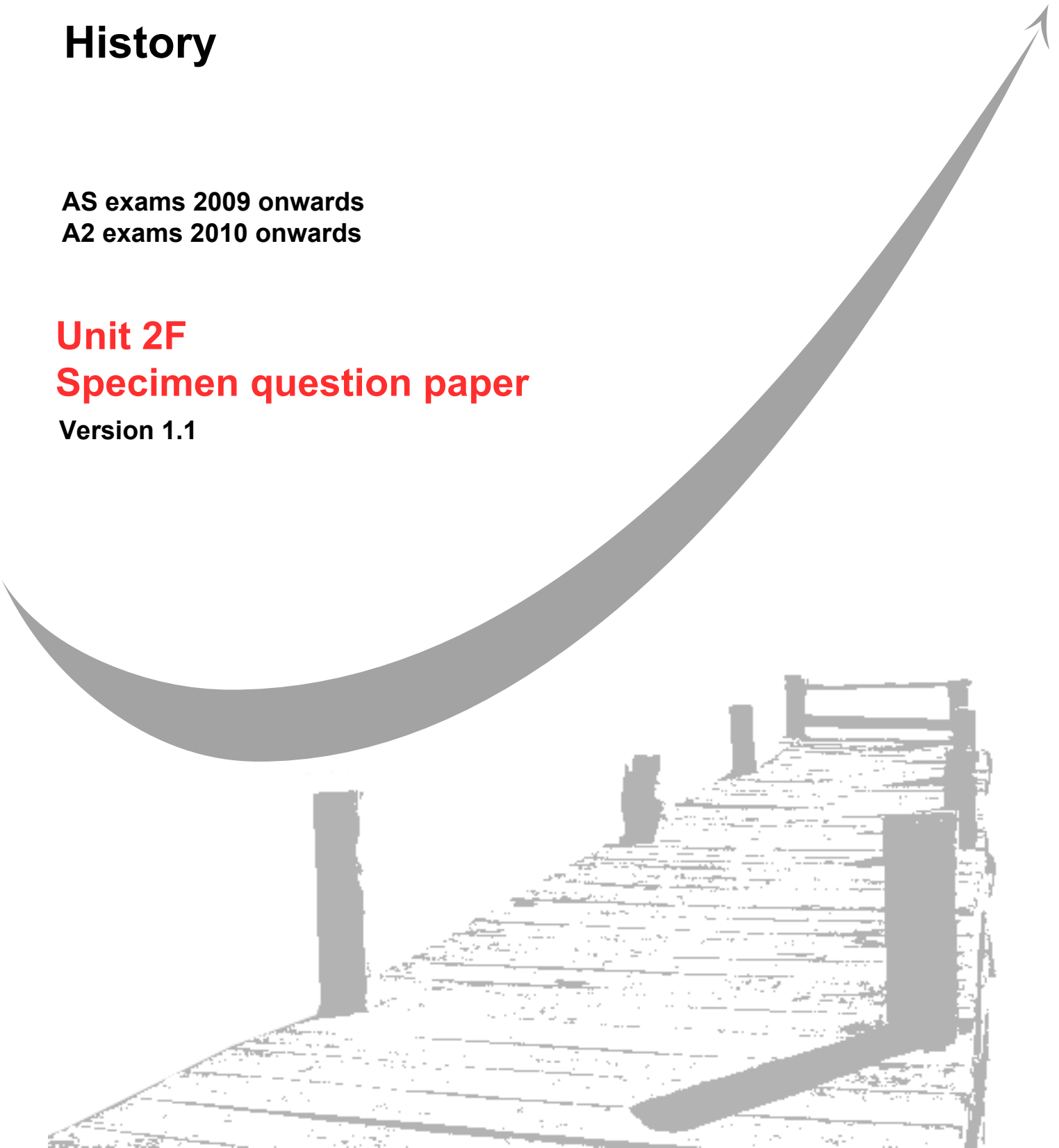
# History

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

## **Unit 2F**

### **Specimen question paper**

**Version 1.1**



**HISTORY**

**HIS2F**

**Unit 2**

**Challenging British Dominance: the Loss of the American Colonies, 1754–1783**

<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 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 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.

**HIS2F**

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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** Sea power was the decisive factor in the American War. For several years the British navy muddled through; however, the strain of fighting the combined Navies of France and Spain proved too much. Disaster finally struck when, as a result of errors by overstretched British naval commanders and skills shown by a French admiral, General Cornwallis found himself surrounded at Yorktown by land and sea.

Adapted from P LANGFORD, *The Eighteenth Century 1688–1815*, 1976

**Source B** The British commander, Lord Cornwallis, advanced into Virginia, in the hope that he could improve the situation there. However, he failed to crush American resistance and soon surrendered the initiative, establishing himself at Yorktown, which was a poor defensive position. Yorktown had an anchorage for ships of the line, so that he would be able to withdraw if necessary. At this point, however, the movement from the West Indies of the French fleet under de Grasse denied the British command of the sea. Furthermore, Washington and Rochambeau were able to achieve a concentration of strength on land outside Yorktown. This placed Cornwallis in an untenable position and he surrendered in October 1781.

Adapted from J BLACK, *Warfare in the Eighteenth Century*, 1999

**Source C** The war was fought by a British government lacking in leadership. Prime Minister Lord North neither provided overall management of the war effort nor saw it as his duty to do so. The Minister responsible for the war lacked the political strength and personal authority of Pitt twenty years earlier. George Washington was therefore confronted with British generals of limited ability and a divided navy.

Adapted from G WILLIAMS and J RAMSDEN, *Ruling Britannia, A Political History of Britain 1688–1988*, 1990

- (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 the reasons for the British defeat at Yorktown in 1781. (12 marks)

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

How far was the American victory in the War of American Independence due to poor British military leadership? (24 marks)

**EITHER 2**

- (a) Explain why Britain achieved victory in the French and Indian wars in the years 1754 to 1763. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'The Treaty of Paris of 1763 achieved the main British aims at the outset of the French and Indian wars.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR 3**

- (a) Explain why relations between the British government and the American colonies worsened between 1763 and 1770. *(12 marks)*
- (b) 'The political ambitions of the colonists were mainly responsible for the outbreak of war.'  
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 A: P LANGFORD, *The Eighteenth Century, 1688–1815*, A & C Black, 1976

Question 1 Source B: J BLACK, *Warfare in the Eighteenth Century*, Cassell & Co., 1998. Reproduced by permission of Weidenfeld & Nicholson, a division of the Orion Publishing Group.

Question 1 Source C: G WILLIAMS & J RAMSDEN, *Ruling Britannia: A Political History of Britain, 1688–1988*, Longman, 1990.

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