

A-level HISTORY

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

Wednesday 5 June 2019 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:
 - 60 minutes on Question 01
 - 45 minutes on each of the two questions in Section B.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From the inaugural address of George Washington, delivered in Federal Hall, New York, 30 April 1789. Washington is speaking about the Constitution and the role of the President.

In the article establishing the executive department, it is made the duty of the President 'to recommend to your consideration such measures as he shall judge necessary'. To look into this subject further, I refer you to the great Constitution under which we are governed. In defining the powers of the people and sections of government powers, it lays out the tasks and responsibilities to which your attention is to be given. I give the firmest pledges that no local prejudices or attachments, no separate views or party animosities, will distract me from having the comprehensive and fair eye, which ought to watch over this great assembly of communities and interests. This will ensure that the foundations of our national policy will be based on moral principles and the pre-eminence of a free government. These are the qualities which can win the support of our citizens and command the respect of the world.

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Source B

From 'The Address to the People' by James Madison, 1798. This accompanied his Virginia Resolutions of 1798, written in protest against the Alien and Sedition Act reducing states' power.

The Alien and Sedition Act presents a problem which was never expected by early friends of the Constitution. It is written in the Constitution that a state's sovereignty can only be reduced by powers specifically stated as belonging to Federal Government, or actions that are necessary to carry out these specified powers. Federal authority is being unjustly built on actions it claims as necessary to carry out its specified powers. Congress will be given a power of legislation in all cases. The states will be stripped of every right reserved for them in the Constitution, by the claims of an overly powerful legislature. The Act is the result of this tremendous assumption of power by Congress, which will inflict a death-wound on the sovereignty of the states. I will not believe that the people have accepted the adoption of the Constitution with clear defined powers, whilst also accepting that the Constitution would allow Congress to have absolute power in all cases.

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Source C

From a letter written by Alexander Hamilton to John Jay, Federalist Governor of New York, 7 May 1800.

Mr Adams has committed some serious errors of administration. In addition to these, he has character traits which damage any cause of which he is the chief, any Administration of which he is the head. His bad moods and jealousies have already divided and distracted the supporters of the Government; he has furnished deadly weapons to its enemies by unfounded accusations, and has weakened the support of its friends by criticising some of the most influential of them to the utmost of his power. The result of such conduct is that he has made great progress in undermining the ground which was gained for the government by George Washington, and that there is real cause to believe it might totter, if not fall, under his future control. A new government, constructed on free principles is always weak. It needs the foundation of a good and firm administration until time will have rendered its authority admired and strengthened by habits of obedience.

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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 implementation of the Constitution by Presidents Washington and Adams.

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

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

- 0 2** 'The French and Indian Wars severely weakened the authority of Britain over its colonies.'

Assess the validity of this view with reference to the years 1760 to 1765.

[25 marks]

- 0 3** How significant was Thomas Jefferson in the development of the ideology of revolution, in the years 1774 to 1776?

[25 marks]

- 0 4** To what extent were the problems of the early republic solved in the years 1783 to 1789?

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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