



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
January 2012

## History

## HIS2F

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

**Monday 23 January 2012 1.30 pm to 3.00 pm**

**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.

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

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### Question 1

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

**Source A** In 1759 Pitt gambled on French weakness, in the knowledge that, however badly the war had gone for Britain, the French had suffered more. He believed correctly that the French Empire in North America was breaking up. The French commander, Montcalm, believed Canada was surrounded on every side. Four years of naval  
5 blockade had taken a heavy toll. Weakened by famine and disease, lacking replacements to make good the losses of war, the French army in Canada stood at half strength. France had abandoned Quebec to its fate.

Adapted from R FURNEAUX, *The Seven Years War*, 1973

**Source B** There were serious British failures during the French and Indian Wars, including the heavy losses in the badly managed frontal attack on Ticonderoga in 1758. These failures were a reminder of the difficulty of the task, partly due to the problems of operating in the interior of North America, and partly to the resourcefulness of some  
5 French commanders, notably Montcalm. Indeed, even British successes were often obtained only after considerable difficulties; the capture of Quebec followed a frustrating two months in which the natural strength of the position, French fortifications and the skilful nature of Montcalm's strategy had thwarted the British under Wolfe.

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

**Source C** Pitt did not lack self-confidence, proclaiming in late 1756, 'I am sure I can save this country, and nobody else can'. Pitt came to symbolise naval triumph and colonial destiny. In 1759, the 'bells of victory' were worn out from ringing to mark the capture of Niagara, Ticonderoga and Quebec. However, Pitt was only one of the factors  
5 contributing to British victory in the French and Indian Wars. Also, there was little evidence of any colonial ambition on Pitt's part: he saw the American contest very much as an aspect of the long-term European struggle, and not as an end in itself.

Adapted from B SIMMS, *Three Victories and a Defeat: The Rise and Fall of the British Empire, 1714–1783*, 2007

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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 strength of the French position in Canada during the French and Indian Wars.

(12 marks)

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

How far was Britain's success in the French and Indian Wars due to Pitt the Elder?

(24 marks)

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**EITHER****Question 2**

**0 3** Explain why the Proclamation Line of 1763 was issued by the British Government. *(12 marks)*

**0 4** 'British policy was responsible for the decline in Anglo-colonial relations in North America in the years 1763 to 1775.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**OR****Question 3**

**0 5** Explain why General Burgoyne was defeated at Saratoga in 1777. *(12 marks)*

**0 6** 'Britain's loss of the American colonies in the years 1778 to 1783 was due to foreign intervention.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)*

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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**There are no questions printed on this page**

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Question 1 Source C: B SIMMS, *Three Victories and a Defeat: The Rise and Fall of the British Empire, 1714–1783*, Penguin Books, 2007. Reproduced by permission of Penguin Books Ltd.

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