



General Certificate of Education  
Advanced Subsidiary Examination  
June 2012

## History

## HIS2F

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

**Tuesday 22 May 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.  
Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.
- 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.

Answer Question 1 and **either** Question 2 **or** Question 3.  
Each question has **two** parts. Answer **both** parts of each question chosen.

### Question 1

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

#### Source A

Britain had a small army of professionals and German mercenary troops who in ordinary circumstances would have performed well. However, from the start of the War of American Independence they were called upon to suppress irregular forces whose method of fighting differed fundamentally from their own. Generals like  
5 Howe were not incompetent. In March 1776, Howe evacuated Boston, acting on the established principle of saving his army from unnecessary loss. In August, he had cleared Long Island and was pursuing Washington, desperately seeking an open engagement in which Howe's trained troops would probably have been successful, but which Washington wisely avoided.

Adapted from B JONES, *The Hanoverians, A Century of Growth 1714–1815*, 1972

#### Source B

During the War of American Independence, Britain suffered greatly from lack of good generalship and from confused strategic direction. The British government saw the war as being a limited local uprising that could be easily crushed by the superiority of regular troops. General Howe had clearly understood the need to evacuate Boston  
5 and to establish his major base in New York. However, Washington, after his defeat at Long Island in 1776, only survived because of the incompetence of Howe, who had failed to block the escape route of the American forces. Howe's plan had been to capture New York, and the rebels were only of secondary interest to him.

Adapted from M ROSE, *Washington's War*, 2007

#### Source C

This was a war Britain simply could not win. For one thing, the transatlantic civil war quickly became absorbed into the long-running global struggle between Britain and France. Louis XVI seized his chance to take revenge for the Seven Years War and, under these circumstances, a full-scale campaign in America would have  
5 been hazardous for Britain. Also, just as importantly, many people back home sympathised with the colonists. The London government lacked the determination to impose British rule on white colonists who were determined to resist it. It was one thing to fight native Americans or mutinous slaves, but it was another to fight what amounted to your own people.

Adapted from N FERGUSON, *Empire: How Britain made the Modern World*, 2003

0	1
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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 British military performance in the War of American Independence. (12 marks)

and

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

How far was Britain's defeat in the War of American Independence due to the leadership of George Washington? (24 marks)

**EITHER****Question 2**

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 Explain why Britain attacked Louisburg in 1758. *(12 marks)***and**

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 'Pitt's leadership was the main reason for British success in the French and Indian Wars.'  
Explain why you agree or disagree with this view. *(24 marks)***OR****Question 3**

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 Explain why American colonists opposed the Quebec Act of 1774. *(12 marks)***and**

0	6
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 'The outbreak of conflict with the American colonies was due to Britain's unwillingness to compromise in the years 1765 to 1775.'  
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 B: M ROSE, *Washington's War*, Orion Books Ltd., 2007

Question 1 Source C: N FERGUSON, *Empire: How Britain made the Modern World*, Penguin Books, 2003. Reproduced by permission of Penguin Books Ltd.

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