

General Certificate of Education
June 2008
Advanced Level Examination



HISTORY

HS5P

Unit 5

Alternative P: Britain, 1748–1802

Wednesday 4 June 2008 9.00 am to 10.30 am

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 HS5P.
- Answer **two** questions.
Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.
- In answering the questions you must use your own knowledge and understanding of the period.

Information

- The maximum mark for this paper is 50.
- The marks for questions are shown in brackets.
- 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.
- In answering Question 1(b) in Section A and your choice of question from Section B, you are advised to draw on an appropriate range of historical knowledge and skills, to demonstrate overall historical understanding for the synoptic assessment requirements for this question paper.

Answer Question 1 and **one** other question.

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

Source A During the critical years of the struggle against France in North America the Pitt-Newcastle government had been careful to avoid disputes with the American colonists. However, from 1759 onwards it seemed less concerned about colonial sensitivities. Although colonial militia and colonial taxes contributed more to the campaigns than British politicians would concede, ministers saw the triumphs of war as those of British regular forces backed by British financial resources. After the war, the government was faced with the cost of the peacetime army in America; it seemed reasonable that the colonies, still lightly taxed in comparison to Britain, should help meet the cost of British garrisons in America, stationed there for the colonists' own defence.

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

Source B The Seven Years' War inflicted serious damage upon relations between Britain and her colonies. British politicians believed that the colonists had done little to contribute to their own self-defence; the legislatures had been uncooperative and, in trading with the enemy during the war, the colonies had done much to prolong it. The British government believed that the North American colonies had to be disciplined and their administration placed on a new footing. In view of the retention of Canada, an army was to be quartered in North America, and the colonists were to pay for it. On the other hand, the colonists believed that the British had trampled over their rights and privileges during the war and had treated their assemblies with disdain. Now, with the threat of France removed from their northern borders, at least one of the most basic reasons for their loyalty to Britain – security – had been removed. They were not likely to look favourably upon the British demand to pay for an army of occupation.

Adapted from FO'GORMAN, *The Long Eighteenth Century: British Political and Social History, 1688–1832*, 1997

Source C To a large extent colonial assemblies had developed away from Crown control by 1760. This was in part a result of the structure and philosophy of American society, and also of the neglect shown by the British Treasury. Also, colonial independence owed quite a lot to the domination of British politics by that alliance of great families, the Old Corps of Whigs, and to the development (largely at their hands) of the concept of parliamentary sovereignty.

Adapted from K PERRY, *British Politics and the American Revolution*, 1990

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

To what extent do these sources agree on the attitude of British governments towards the American colonies during and immediately after the Seven Years' War? *(10 marks)*

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

'The outbreak of the War of American Independence was due more to the impact of the Seven Years' War than to the political ambitions of the colonists.'
Assess the validity of this view. *(20 marks)*

Turn over for the next question

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- 2 'Britain's involvement in the Seven Years' War owed more to her European interests than to her colonial interests.'
Assess the validity of this view. (20 marks)
- 3 'Political ambition on the part of the King was more important than ministerial incompetence in explaining the political instability which Britain experienced in the 1760s.'
Assess the validity of this view. (20 marks)
- 4 How effective was the contribution of John Wilkes to the pressure for political reform, both inside and outside Parliament, in the 1760s and 1770s? (20 marks)
- 5 To what extent were the failings of the Church of England, rather than the impact of John Wesley, responsible for the growth of Methodism between 1748 and 1802? (20 marks)
- 6 To what extent was the outcome of the War of American Independence determined more by weak British leadership than by the skills of Britain's opponents? (20 marks)
- 7 'The loss of America overshadowed any domestic achievements.'
How valid is this comment on Lord North's ministry? (20 marks)
- 8 'Efficiency rather than innovation was the main objective of Pitt the Younger's financial and administrative reforms.'
Assess the validity of this view. (20 marks)

END OF QUESTIONS

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

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Source C: K PERRY, *British Politics and the American Revolution*, Macmillan, 1990. Reproduced by permission of Palgrave Macmillan.