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# A-level HISTORY

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

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Friday 16 June 2017

Morning

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.

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**Section A**

Answer Question 01.

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**Source A**

From a letter from Brigadier General Thomas Conway to George Washington, 5 November 1777. Washington had previously written to Conway regarding a critical letter Conway had sent to General Gates.

I wrote to General Gates and I spoke my mind freely. I found fault with several measures pursued in this army. My opinion of you, sir, without flattery or envy, is as follows: you are a brave honest man of great sense. Your modesty is such that although your advice in council is commonly sound, men who were not equal to you in point of experience or judgment have often influenced you. I have expressed this view in my letter to General Gates. I believe I can verify that the expression 'weak General' has not slipped from my pen. However, if it has, this weakness cannot be explained, even by the most malicious people, other than as an excess of modesty on your side and a confidence in men who are much inferior to you in point of judgment. I defy the most keen and entrenched detractors to make it appear that I questioned your bravery, honesty or judgment for which I have the highest regard.

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**Source B**

From Thomas Jefferson's letter, 2 January 1814, in response to a request from Dr Walter Jones. Dr Jones was writing a book on George Washington's role during the Revolutionary War.

Washington's mind was great and powerful, without being of the very first order; it was slow in operation, being little aided by invention or imagination, but sure in conclusion. Hence the common remark of his officers of the advantage he derived from councils of war, where hearing all suggestions, he selected whatever was best; and certainly no general ever planned his battles more judiciously. He was incapable of fear, meeting personal dangers with the calmest unconcern. Perhaps the strongest feature in his character was prudence, never acting until every circumstance, every consideration, was maturely weighed; refraining if he saw doubt, but, when once decided, going through with his purpose, whatever obstacles opposed. His integrity was most pure, his justice the most inflexible I have ever known; no motives of interest of family, of friendship or hatred, being able to affect his decision. He was, indeed, in every sense of the words, a wise, a good and a great man.

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**Source C**

From George Washington's resignation address to Congress, 23 December 1783.

I resign with satisfaction the appointment I accepted with hesitancy. A hesitancy in my abilities to accomplish so arduous a task, which however was superseded by a confidence in the righteousness of our cause, the support of the supreme power of the Union, and the patronage of Heaven.

The successful end of the War has confirmed the most positive expectations, and my gratitude for the assistance I have received from my Countrymen increases with every review of the momentous contest. While I repeat my obligations to the army in general, I should do injustice to my own feelings not to acknowledge in this place the services and distinguished merits of the gentlemen who have been working closely with me during the War. It was impossible that the choice of confidential officers, who became like a family to me, should have been more fortunate. Permit me Sir, to recommend in particular those who have continued in their service, as worthy of the favorable notice and patronage of Congress. 5 10

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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 George Washington's military leadership.

**[30 marks]**

**Turn over for the next question.**

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**Section B**

Answer **two** questions.

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**0 2** To what extent did Britain neglect the Thirteen Colonies in North America c1760?  
**[25 marks]**

**0 3** 'Both the colonial elites and movements from below shared similar attitudes to British rule in the years 1763 to 1770.'  
Assess the validity of this view.  
**[25 marks]**

**0 4** 'The development of the new Republic in the years 1783 to 1789 was hindered by inter-state disputes.'  
Assess the validity of this view.  
**[25 marks]**

**END OF QUESTIONS**

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