AQA

A-level HISTORY

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

Friday 7 June 2024 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:
  – 1 hour on Question 01 from **Section A**
  – 45 minutes on each of the **two** questions answered from **Section B**.

Section A

Answer Question 01.

Source A

From the report of a meeting of slave owners, 8 November 1785. This meeting was held to organise opposition to an act to abolish slavery in Virginia.

When the British Parliament took away our rights and property without our consent, we broke away, and established our own government, so our property might be secure in the future. We risked our lives and fortunes and because of God's favor we succeeded and gained our independence, our rights, and our property. But despite this, there is a daring attempt by an act of law to take a very important part of our property, our slaves.

This proposed new law is unsupported by Scripture, for in the Old Testament, God permitted slavery. Also, it is unwise for it would cause poverty, distress, and ruin to the freed slaves; neglect, famine, and death to the young and old; bankruptcy and loss of credit with foreign nations; and cause a crime wave from a vast mass of unprincipled, propertyless, and revengeful outlaws. It would ruin our flourishing, free, and happy country.

We solemnly insist and humbly pray for the rejection of any measures to stop slavery.

Source B

From a pamphlet to the people of New York by the Federalist, John Jay, 17 September 1787. This was written during the debate over the new Federal Constitution.

Friends and Fellow-Citizens: it is a pity we used more care and wisdom when forming our state governments than in forming the Federal Articles of Confederation. Prior to the revolution, we did not understand how important national interests were to the advancement and protection of our country. This narrow mindset has resulted in disagreement and bitterness between the states over the issue of slavery representation, and if such disharmony continues, it will poison, and destroy America.

Ending slavery would be unwise, and the emancipation of all slaves would be improper. Instead, gradual freedom might be granted to the more industrious of the slaves, as the Spaniards and French have done. The man who has worked himself free knows how to make use of his freedom and becomes a valuable member of society. We must leave it to the wisdom of Congress to do what they consider is right to resolve the disagreements about slavery which are an obstacle to the future of America.

Source C

From a speech to Congress by Alexander Hamilton, 20 June 1788. The speech responds to a debate over the economy and voting representation between the Northern and Southern States.

The Southern States' plantation crops of tobacco, cotton, and rice will help us secure important commercial treaties with foreign nations which will benefit the whole Union. However, the differences between the Northern and Southern States over the issue of slavery have produced a delicate and difficult conflict. It is an unfortunate situation for the Southern States to have a great part of their commercial property, and population, as slaves. By no means should we only consider slaves as property. They are men, though degraded to the condition of slavery.

There are many people, in both Northern and Southern States, who are unrepresented. But representation and taxation go together. The three-fifths clause is a compromise to reconcile the clash of interests between the North and South. Slaves are included in the assessment of taxes and the distribution of representatives in Congress. Thus, the advantages of the three-fifths clause benefit not just the Southern States but all the States in the Union.

0 1 With reference to these sources and your understanding of the historical context, assess the value of these three sources to an historian studying the issue of slavery in the 1780s.

[30 marks]

Turn over for Section B

Section B

Answer **two** questions.

0 2 To what extent was the crisis in Boston in 1770 the result of British policies since 1765?

[25 marks]

0 3 'The most important reason why the colonies moved towards independence from Britain, in the years 1774 to 1776, was the influence of Thomas Jefferson.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

0 4 'American victory in the War of Independence was due to French intervention.'

Assess the validity of this view.

[25 marks]

END OF QUESTIONS

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