



Cambridge International Examinations
Cambridge International General Certificate of Secondary Education

AMERICAN HISTORY (US)

0409/02

Paper 2 Defining Moments

October/November 2014

INSERT

1 hour 30 minutes



READ THESE INSTRUCTIONS FIRST

This Insert contains two sections:

Section A: The Causes of the American Revolution from 1754 (pages 2–4)

Section B: The 1920s (pages 5–7)

You are required to answer **all** the questions in **one** section. Study the sources for the section you have chosen. The time needed to do this is allowed for within the time set for the examination.

This document consists of **7** printed pages and **1** blank page.

Section A: The Causes of the American Revolution from 1754**SOURCE A**

The last war left this colony with a debt of near half a million. Providing for the security of the people against our savage neighbors is expensive. This is at a time when the low state of our staple commodity (tobacco), the total lack of coinage and the recent restrictions on the trade of the colonies, make the circumstances of the people extremely distressful. If taxes are piled upon them by the British Parliament, their condition will be truly deplorable.

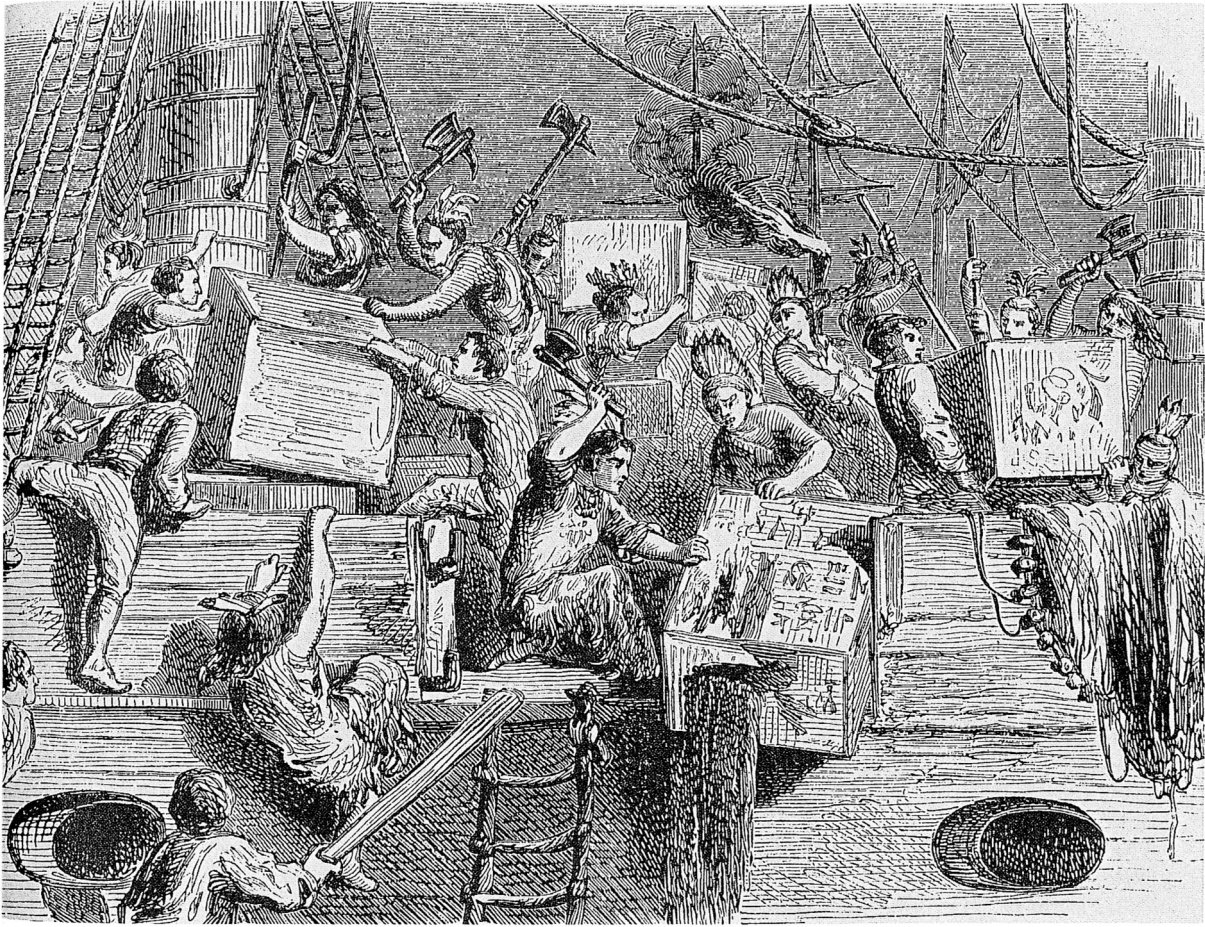
From the Virginia Petitions to the King and Parliament, December 18, 1764. The British government had just introduced various measures to strengthen the customs system in the colonies.

SOURCE B

- 1 His Majesty's subjects in the colonies owe him allegiance, and they owe obedience to the Parliament of Great Britain.
- 5 The only representatives of the colonies are persons chosen by themselves, and no taxes can be constitutionally imposed on them except by their own legislatures.
- 8 The Stamp Act and the extension of the powers of the courts deny the rights and liberties of the colonists.
- 9 The taxes imposed by several recent Acts will be extremely burdensome and payment of them absolutely impracticable.
- 12 By humble appeals to Parliament, these colonies will try to achieve the repeal of the Stamp Act.

From 'The Resolutions of the Stamp Act Congress', October 19, 1765. Delegates from nine colonies were present.

SOURCE C



An engraving of the Boston Tea Party, December 16, 1773. This was drawn after the event by an unknown artist.

SOURCE D

Shots fired were intended to alarm others of our approach. We went forward slowly when three shots more were fired at us which we did not return. In the centre of the village there were over 400 on a flat space opposite the Church. Several officers called out, 'Throw down your arms!' They refused, so Major Pitcairn called out, 'Soldiers, don't fire, keep your ranks and surround them'. Instantly, some of the villains fired at us which our men for the first time returned.

From the report of a British Lieutenant, William Sutherland, to his superior officer, General Gage, on events at Lexington, April 19, 1775. The British were marching to Concord.

SOURCE E

The British troops approached us rapidly. The officer came up very close to us. The officer then swung his sword and said, 'Lay down your arms, you damned rebels, or you are all dead men – Fire!' Some guns were fired by the British but no person was killed or hurt. We dispersed and leapt over the wall. Another platoon of the British opened fire and killed some of our men. There was not a gun fired by the Minutemen.

An account of events at Lexington on April 19, 1775 by Sylvanus Wood. He was 27 years old when he fought at Lexington.

SOURCE F

When we consider the new and unjust claims of our brethren in Great Britain to levy taxes upon us and to make laws to bind us in all cases whatsoever, we view ourselves as absolute slaves. For what is a slave but one who is bound in all cases by the will of another? We look on the late unjust, cruel, hostile and tyrannical acts of the British Parliament, regarding the Massachusetts Bay in general and Boston in particular, as consequences of these unrighteous claims, and from them clearly see what the whole continent has to expect under their operation.

From a letter from the town councillors of Kingston, New Hampshire, to the overseers of Boston, September 14, 1774.

SOURCE G

The colonies were settled under English protection; were constituted by an English charter and have been defended by English arms. It is absurd to suppose that a colony is an independent power and that when emigrants become rich they shall not contribute to their own defence. He that accepts protection, concedes obedience. We have always protected the Americans; we may, therefore, subject them to government. If a power can take away life surely it may seize property. The parliament may enact, for America, a law of capital punishment; it may, therefore, establish a mode and proportion of taxation.

From the writing of Samuel Johnson, November 1774. Often referred to as Dr. Johnson, the author was a distinguished English writer, famous for his 'Dictionary of the English Language'.

Section B: The 1920s

SOURCE A



A picture of a seaside resort near Boston, Massachusetts, July 4, 1926.

SOURCE B

Official government figures show that in the 15 mainly wheat-growing states more than 600,000 farmers have been bankrupted or stayed in business only through the leniency of their creditors since 1920. Exorbitant tariffs, which protected industry, depressed the prices of the farmers' products while increasing the cost of what he must buy. Excessive freight rates charged by the railroads saddled the farmer with an unwarranted burden. Grain speculators have gambled in farm products to the detriment of the farmer.

From a speech by Robert La Follette, 1924. The speaker, from Wisconsin, was the third party candidate in the campaign for the presidency, nominated by an organisation representing the farmer-labor movement.

SOURCE C

Our own sales depend upon the wages we pay. If we pay high wages then that money will be spent and it will serve to make storekeepers, distributors, manufacturers and workers in other sectors more prosperous, and their prosperity will be reflected in our sales. In our factories each man and each machine do only one thing. The thing is to keep everything in motion and take the work to the man and not the man to the work.

From the autobiography of Henry Ford, published in 1922. The author was the founder of the Ford Motor Company, the biggest car manufacturer in the U.S.A. in the 1920s.

SOURCE D

Stock market hysteria reached its peak in 1929. Everyone was playing the market. Stocks soared dizzily. I had invested my earnings in good stocks. Should I sell for a profit? Everyone said, 'Hang on – it's a rising market'. On my last day in New York I went down to the barber. He said to me, 'Buy Standard Gas. I've doubled my money; it's good for another double'. I reflected that if hysteria had reached the barber-level, something must soon happen.

From 'The Bright Twenties' by Cecil Roberts, published in 1970. The author, an English journalist and novelist, worked in New York in the 1920s before the Wall Street Crash.

SOURCE E

Confidence in the soundness of the stock market structure was voiced last night by bankers and other financial leaders, despite the upheaval of the last few days. The sentiment expressed by the heads of some of the largest banking institutions and by industrial executives was distinctly cheerful. The feeling was that the worst had been seen. Wall Street ended the day in an optimistic frame of mind.

From the 'New York Times' newspaper, October 25, 1929. The previous day was known as 'Black Thursday' when share prices fell faster and lower than at any time before or since.

SOURCE F

In America the daily life of most people is on a scale that is reserved for the privileged classes elsewhere. In 1925 there were 15 telephone users for every 100 inhabitants as compared with 2 in Europe. In 1924 farmers alone possessed over 550,000 radios. Statistics for 1925 show that the U.S. owned 81% of all automobiles in existence, or one for every 5.6 people as compared with one for every 54 in Europe. The U.S. consumes 75% of the world's rubber and gasoline, 66% of all raw silk and 25% of its sugar.

From 'America Comes of Age' by André Siegfried, a French professor of Economics, published in 1927. This report assesses the U.S. economy in a global context.

SOURCE G

Our country has become the land of opportunity to those born without inheritance, not merely because of the wealth of its resources but because of a freedom of initiative and enterprise. By sticking to the principles of decentralised self-government, ordered liberty, equal opportunity, and freedom to the individual, our American system has yielded a degree of well-being unparalleled in all the world. It has come nearer to the abolition of poverty, to the abolition of fear of want, than humanity has ever reached before. The progress of the past seven years is the proof of it.

From a speech by Herbert Hoover, October 22, 1928. In this speech Hoover, who was standing as the Republican candidate for president, used the phrase 'rugged individualism' to explain his economic philosophy.

Copyright Acknowledgments:

Section B Source A

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