

A LEVEL

Examiners' report

HISTORY A

H505

For first teaching in 2015

Y212/01 Summer 2023 series

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Introduction

Our examiners' reports are produced to offer constructive feedback on candidates' performance in the examinations. They provide useful guidance for future candidates.

The reports will include a general commentary on candidates' performance, identify technical aspects examined in the questions and highlight good performance and where performance could be improved. A selection of candidate answers is also provided. The reports will also explain aspects which caused difficulty and why the difficulties arose, whether through a lack of knowledge, poor examination technique, or any other identifiable and explainable reason.

Where overall performance on a question/question part was considered good, with no particular areas to highlight, these questions have not been included in the report.

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Paper Y212/01 series overview

Y212/01 is one of twenty four units in Paper 2 for the revised A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about 100 years through a short-answer essay and a traditional essay. The paper contains two questions, each having two parts, a short-answer essay and a traditional essay and candidates had to answer both parts of one question.

To do well on the short-answer essay question, candidates needed to consider the significance or importance of both issues, factors, individuals or events mentioned in relation to the question. Having analysed or explained both they must reach a supported judgement as to which is the most important or significant.

To do well on the traditional essay, candidates needed to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. To reach the higher levels, candidates needed to assess the issues they discussed and reach a supported judgement, at least in the conclusion.

| Candidates who did well on this paper generally: | Candidates who did less well on this paper generally: |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gave equal consideration to the two issues in the short-answer essay • reached a developed and supported judgement as to which issue was more significant or important • linked their knowledge of the issues to the focus of the question • discussed at least two relevant issues in depth • gave supporting detail, which was both accurate and relevant to the question set, not just the topic • reached a supported judgement about the issue in the question • made a series of interim judgements about the issues discussed in relation to the question. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • considered only one of the issues or discussed one in a superficial way • produced a judgement that was not supported and was therefore assertion or a judgement that did not follow logically from the response • were unable to use their knowledge to address the issue in the question • showed a poor understanding of the major issues relevant to the essay • were unable to support their answer with relevant or accurate material • did not focus on the precise wording of the question • made unsupported comments about issues which were no more than assertions. |

Question 1 (a)

- 1 (a) Which of the following was the more serious challenge facing the early Republic in 1783?
- (i) Economic problems
 - (ii) The distrust of central authority

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

This was the least popular of the two questions. The biggest challenge for those who attempted this question was the date, 1783. Candidates struggled to adhere to this date and often strayed into the constitution-making phase of the topic, rather than sticking to the immediate aftermath of the war, as the question intended. Better responses addressed economic problems by focusing on the burden of debt and dislocation of trade caused by the war. For the distrust of central authority, candidates usually emphasised the fear that a war fought to remove an overmighty British government might simply result in a federal American equivalent. Relatively few candidates made much of Americans' overriding local loyalty to colony or state.

Exemplar 1

a The early Republic in 1783 faced great economic problems and the authority with which the American people ought to have been governed by their new central government was lacking, largely due to their distrust of central authority.

During the beginning of the early Republic, the colonies were facing huge economic problems mainly as a result of the war of Independence they had just fought ~~and~~ and war. They were largely in debt ~~to~~ America as well as from countries outside. This debt amounted to ~~£~~ around £60 million. Moreover, due to the lack of ability to raise funds during the war, the central government was forced to print money. The inability of extracting a reliable source of revenue from within the states due to the fact that central government was not able to levy taxes brought about this phase of printing money. It of course meant that inflation ensued and thus, average prices of goods rose significantly. The debt and inflation could only be paid back and balanced by the states agreeing to contribute towards this issue if needed. The remedy was not successful, however, as the states refused to contribute towards paying back the debt of central government owed.

The Americans had a real issue with authority and accepting demands of some form of governing body. Perhaps understandably, this attitude arose from the British

treatment of the American colonies prior to 1783. British policy, the colonists felt, had intruded on their rights, violating them consistently, and thus deprived them of the liberty they valued so highly. The distrust of British ~~gov~~ Parliament and to some extent the Crown fed into the American distrust of their new central government. It failed to provide them, it seemed with the liberty that the British Parliament had so long deprived them of. This attitude was hugely detrimental to the capability and responsibility of central government to care for their people and ensure social, economic, and political situations of problems did not spiral out of control. An example of American distrust of central government is shown by Shay's rebellion. The purpose of Shay's rebellion was to counteract the 60% rise in property tax that the ~~gov~~ Colonial assembly of Massachusetts had levied. Yes, Massachusetts did not have the responsibility of central government, but it represented a wider distrust of authority due to the principle, not the practical implications of such taxes.

Overall, the more serious challenge facing the early Republic in 1783 was the distrust of central government. Economic problems played a major role in making the running of central government and affairs in the early Republic extremely difficult. The £60 million in debt had huge implications for the states. They weren't, in practice, independent if they still had

to rely on external bodies to assist with their debt problems. Moreover, it was hugely difficult to raise funds and extract revenue due to their inability to tax which was delegated to the States. But, it is for reasons such as this one that the distrust of central government was actually more important. The inability of the central government to levy taxes and raise revenue made the economic problems very difficult to solve, but it is the distrust of authority that brought about the central government's inability to tax. The practical implications of a people that had no trust in their authority - central government - made the running of the early Republic so hugely difficult. The ideological fear of liberty being taken away scared American citizens and their distrust of their central government.

Exemplar 1 is a sound response with a sound point for each factor. It is uneven because it does not emphasise loyalty to colony/state for (ii) and strays forward to consider Shay's rebellion for (i). Hence, it was given a high Level 4: 6 marks.

Question 1 (b)***(b)*** How similar were the colonies in North America in 1740?**[20]**

The date, 1740, was once again important. Two approaches were equally valid: either to compare British, French and Spanish colonies, or just to compare the different British colonies. In general, the first approach, requiring less very specific detail, was the more successful, the usual points of comparison being, political arrangements, and the colonies' religious and economic character. Most successful candidates concluded that the biggest differences lay between the British colonies and the others, simply by virtue of the number of settlers, which was far higher in the British colonies. The second approach, confined to the British colonies, often led to a consideration of slaveholding and more specific religious denominations.

Exemplar 2

D In 1740, the colonies in North America were both similar and different in various ways. There were various forms of colonies with respect to their local governing bodies but ~~overall~~ the population of the colonies, although largely diverse ^{within colonies,} was fairly uniform between colonies. This affected the identity of the colonists and citizens living in North America and also, due to a spectrum of political views, some differences were indeed apparent.

It would be prevalent to first note the ~~the~~ spread of the colonies by name. The New England Colonies ^{and Pennsylvania} included Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, while the middle colonies included New York, New Jersey, Delaware and the southern colonies included Maryland, Georgia, South Carolina and North Carolina. The southern colonies were perhaps more radical in their views of slavery for example. Although many had slaves, the southern colonists were so determined to maintain this right later on, proved by the Constitution's disagreement surrounding the issue such that the word 'slavery' was never mentioned but 'property' was and if the southerners saw fit (that slaves were 'property') then slavery could continue and it indeed did. This example shows that the southern colonies' political ideology, although views in the other regions may have changed between 1740 and 1773, it still shows an apparent difference in political ideology.

On the topic of slavery, immigration caused a rapidly rising population. The high birth rates and low death rates throughout the colonies also contributed to this growing figure. By the 1770s, the colonies' collective ~~the colonies' collective~~ population was around 2.5 million. The immigration consisted of Scots Irish, German, African, and British, primarily. This immigration clearly demonstrates the diversity of the various groups collectively, coming to inhabit North America. Of course, at the time, the African immigrants had not particularly come out of desire to reach new land - they were slaves and had been brought in by the slave trade in large numbers. It is important to note that the contributors to the growing population including immigration, low death rates and high birth rates, were present throughout the colonies. However, more often than not, the colonies with docks and ports nearby experienced the greatest influx of people and therefore had slightly more diverse populations.

With regards to local governing bodies of individual colonies - there existed: proprietary colonies; corporate colonies and royal colonies. The proprietary colonies were ~~some~~ ones in which greater power was delegated to the governor. The governor was present in every colony and he held the

responsibility of appointing members of the upper house. The upper house of the colonial assembly was the elitist part - perhaps ~~what was~~ the House of Lords in Britain at the time. The lower house was representative for the population of the colony. These factors of local government were present regardless of the type of colony ~~that was~~ in question.

~~Finally~~ Finally, relating to the governor he was appointed by the Crown - George III for much of the period from 1740-1796. He was answerable to the king and therefore under the watchful eye of Britain and its empire. The colonies were great hubs of agricultural production ~~and~~ and fishing. With their ^{type of} economic output, the colonies did vary so much but the quantity did vary according to population.

In conclusion, the colonies in North America were more similar than not in 1740. Although the population was highly diverse for a region at the time, the population between each colony was fairly similar with regards to its diversity. Moreover, they all forged a new identity due to this while still remaining proud of their British heritage, at the time. The governing bodies of the colonies were all fairly similar and to some extent mirrored Parliament in Britain but were less

powerful and more plentiful. ~~and~~ Although the colonies did vary in population heavily, some colonies 8 times the size of others, the principles of the colonies were all fairly similar and the types of person that this strange new situation formed was fairly - or at least became fairly similar as well. People make up a country and this was the main factor in why the American colonies used the similar framework in 1740.

Exemplar 2 took the second approach, which was confined to the British colonies leading to a consideration of slaveholding and more specific religious denominations. This exemplar struggled to provide the detailed evidence that is required for the higher levels. The response does have some understanding and a line of reasoning, although much of the knowledge is general and it lacks development. Hence, it was given a low mark in Level 4: 10 marks.

Question 2 (a)

2 (a) Which was more important in bringing about the Declaration of Independence in 1776?

- (i) The first Continental Congress
- (ii) The second Continental Congress

Explain your answer with reference to both (i) and (ii).

[10]

The vast majority of candidates took this question. In some cases, it appeared that its pairing with 2(b) may have been the deciding factor, as crucial details were attributed to the wrong Congress. The best responses correctly identified the transitional character of the first Continental Congress, showing that it was preparing the ground for independence by endorsing the confrontational Suffolk Resolves while, overall, presenting itself as loyalist. For the second Continental Congress, good responses picked up on the context of growing military confrontation in Massachusetts and the importance of the Olive Branch Petition, the rejection of which by King George III proved decisive in moving the Congress towards the Declaration. Other important factors included the full attendance of representatives from all 13 colonies, including the principal authors of the Declaration, as well as significant military preparations.

Exemplar 3

(a) The Second continental congress was more important in bringing about the declaration of independence in 1776. The cause of the formation was due to the battle of Lexington and Concord, this clearly indicated that the colonies were not willing to make away from the aims of freeing themselves from the rule of the British. Even though there was a last attempt to reconcile with the British, as the Olive Branch petition, which still failed, the congress managed to unify the approach and agree on passing the declaration of independence. The congress encouraged ideas of freedom and independence, through the writings ~~and~~ influence of leaders such as Thomas Paine. ~~★~~ Therefore the second continental congress can almost be seen as a breakthrough for the colonies from the British and clear message indicating the change in ideology.

The first continental congress was less important ~~than~~ in bringing about the declaration of independence in 1776. Firstly due to its lack of unity as only 12/13^{delegates from} colonies attended it, showing that there was conflicting ideology on what wanted to be achieved. Further more it can be stated that the first continental congress was just a response

by the colonists towards the coercive acts, which were to relieve. However it can be argued that taking significant approaches such as introducing supply results which renewed ban on trade, boycotted British goods and abandon policies were vital steps in order to bring about the idea of independence. But ~~the failure of~~ the need to establish a second continental congress shows the insignificance of the First continental congress in about bringing the declaration of independence.

In conclusion, the Second continental congress is more important than the first because it officially took effective measures in dealing with the British and ideas were unified. This unification was more important in order to bring the declaration of independence into power.

The Second continental congress made the continental congress a necessity which could no longer be overturned.

★ Although it can be argued that the want of unanimity and concord was the initial reason for the let up of the second continental congress which then led to the declaration of independence. But this still proves that the second was more significant than the first.

Exemplar 3 is a high-level response with good understanding. Ideally, there would have been a reference to the Suffolk Resolves but otherwise, knowledge is strong and the contexts well understood, hence Level 6: 9 marks.

Exemplar 4

i) The 1st Continental Congress was less important in bringing about the Declaration of Independence.

~~It was important as it led to~~ The 1st Continental Congress didn't have as much impact as the 2nd but it was still somewhat important.

~~Colonies could~~ The 1st continental congress only denounced British actions and met to discuss how to resist their ~~power~~ actions. ~~the~~ They organised a circular letter to be sent to Britain regarding their actions however there was no thoughts of independence just yet. The colonies were still tied to Britain emotionally, as it was all they had ever known, and ideologically. Furthermore the 1st Continental Congress could ~~not~~ wield very little power... They relied on moral pressure by publicly publishing the names of the accused as a means to exert control.

Overall the 1st Continental Congress wasn't quite important in bringing about the ~~the~~ Declaration of Independence because many colonists still felt they were tied to Britain Britain ideologically and couldn't ~~imagine~~ imagine a world without them.

ii) The second Continental Congress was ~~not~~ more important in ~~bring~~ bringing about the Declaration of Independence.

After the flight of the governors the 2nd Continental Congress assumed the role of the government within the colonies. This was important

in bringing about the Declaration as it meant that they ~~assumed~~ were acting independently of Britain showing they could survive without British aid. This ~~stood in for~~ Acting as a government the 2nd Continental Congress raised and supplied Washington's army, whilst also organising boycotts. ^{With the} In the 2nd Continental Congress the colonies were acting more independently of Britain showing they could exist ~~on~~ successfully on their own, an important step in getting everyone in favour of independence.

The 2nd Continental Congress also created the Declaration of Independence. With a small committee of Jefferson, Adams and Jay sent to write it.

It was ratified and published the 2nd Continental Congress. This shows the 2nd Continental Congress was more important in bringing about the 2nd Declaration as this was the congress which actually wrote it.

Overall the 2nd Continental Congress was important to ~~be~~ ^{assess} ~~assumed~~ the role of the government ~~or~~ showing it could act independently but also it drafted the Declaration of Independence.

In Conclusion the 2nd Continental Congress was ^{more} ~~more~~ more important in bringing about the Declaration of Independence. The 2nd Continental Congress had actual power instead of relying on moral pressure and they functioned as an actual government, raising money, funding an army.

Not only this but the 2nd Continental Congress had all these states present and wrote and adopted the Declaration of Independence. For these reasons the 2nd Continental Congress was more important in bringing about the Declaration of Independence.

Exemplar 4 also has a good contextual grasp but is less well detailed, and a little uneven in coverage of the factors, hence Level 4: 6 marks.

Misconception



Thinking that the first Congress was more conciliatory, several candidates decided that this Congress, not the second Congress, sent the Olive Branch Petition to George III.

Question 2 (b)*

(b)* 'The Stamp Act controversy was the most important event in causing the deteriorating relations between Britain and the colonies in the period from 1763 to 1775.' How far do you agree? **[20]**

This was a very popular question. The most common, effective approach was to assess the Stamp Act controversy and then set it against other disputes between 1763 and 1775. Popular choices for alternatives were: the Townshend Duties, the Boston massacre, the Boston Tea Party and Coercive Acts or sometimes the Proclamation Line of 1763 or Sugar Act (1764). More general factors were less successful as they could not so easily be considered an 'event', as stated in the question. Effective responses recognised the significance of the Stamp Act controversy as the inspiration for militant action, typified by the 'Sons of Liberty', implying that later events simply built on the Stamp Act agitation. An alternative line was equally plausible; that the Stamp Act controversy died down, as did other disputes up to 1773, but that the Tea Party and consequent Coercive Acts marked the point of irreversible deterioration of relations.

Exemplar 5

| | |
|-----|--|
| (b) | <p>Stamp act ^{→ tax on any paper} 1763 - 1775</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - repeal - new york Testaining act |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Tea act = Boston tea party |
| | <p>Quelling act, Port Boston closed</p> |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - intolerable Boston Massacre |
| | |
| | |
| | <p>From the period from 1763 - 1775, there</p> |
| | <p>were many events that caused deteriorating</p> |
| | <p>relations between Britain and the colonies. The</p> |
| | <p>importance of these events are compared</p> |
| | <p>against how widespread it was, the aftermath of</p> |
| | <p>these events (what did it lead too), and how</p> |
| | <p>much it threatened the colonies and their freedom.</p> |
| | <p>The most important events in ^{such a} situation</p> |
| | <p>was the tea act, ^{Boston tea party} intolerable act and the stamp</p> |
| | <p>act. This essay will disagree with the statement</p> |
| | <p>as the stamp Act controversy was not the most</p> |
| | <p>event.</p> |
| | |
| | <p>The stamp act controversy was not the most</p> |
| | <p>important as the aftermath of the act wasn't</p> |
| | <p>that significant compared to the tea act.</p> |
| | <p>The tea act involved cheap tea from the</p> |
| | <p>west Indies being exported to the colonies.</p> |
| | <p>Although this hugely affected the merchants</p> |
| | <p>who were unable to make any gain</p> |
| | <p>and negatively impacted their business, this</p> |
| | <p>act resulted in mass unrest and further</p> |
| | <p>worsening relations between the colonies and</p> |
| | <p>Britain. The event of the Boston tea</p> |

party where people from a revolutionary party led by James Adams, released over 1000 native Americans and dumped 300 iron chests ^{of tea} into the sea at the Boston port. This event led to further strict restrictions on the colonies such as the closing down of the ~~of~~ Boston until everything was repaired. Therefore the restrictions put by the ~~into~~ coercive acts due to the tea party were threatening the colonies and their freedom.

Another event was also more important in causing the deteriorating relations between Britain and colonies was the Boston Massacre.

After the repeal of the stamp act and slightly calm relations, the Boston massacre sparked more hatred between the two.

Although it could be argued that ~~the~~ ^{these} tensions were already rising in tensions due to standing army and previous acts such as the stamp act, it was only further escalated due to the Boston massacre. After the killing of 3 civilians by the ~~British~~ ^{British} officials, the colonists grew angry and further turned to violent mob action. Many officials were beaten and harassed and some fled due to the fear of being killed. There was more shift in the ideology of want the colonies wanted as they were threatened by the British, were encouragement towards

fighting back against the British and the idea of independence through pamphlets and leaders. Therefore the Boston Newsweek was more important than the Stamp act controversy as it was more widespread across the colonies, had significant aftermath which led to more violent action and the event was a threat to the colonies.

However, it could be argued that the Stamp act was to some extent significant in causing the deteriorating relations between Britain and colonies. The Stamp act imposed tax on any stamped goods which was a problem mainly for anyone. ~~The repeal of the act caused~~ The controversy behind the act led to New York's chaining act which convinced New York whilst they agreed to follow the British policies, therefore this act further led to more harsh policies which the colonies were willing to rebel against, further deteriorating relations. But the reason why the Stamp act is not so important is because of its repeal. The colonies managed to repeal the act which shows that the British

were willing to listen to the colonies and were aware that they needed to ~~remain~~ establish good relations with the colonies therefore were a bit easy on them.

In conclusion, the Stamp Act controversy was not as important as the events of the Boston Tea party and Boston Massacre. This is because of its more influential impact on later events and how it encouraged unity and a shift in the ideological debate, on what the colonies most wanted. Overall the Massacre and Boston Tea party were more violent and straight up approaches compared to the Stamp Act controversy which although sparked debate but lacked in any significant approach.

Exemplar 5 is an effective response with a generally good grasp of the material, a line of reasoning and substantiated judgement, although the candidate could have made more of the Stamp Act controversy, hence Level 5: 14 marks.

Exemplar 6

b) Stamp Act - led to violent action

Townshend Duties - Organised nation wide boycott
- applied ideologies of tax to violence

~~The~~ Boston Tea Party / Coercive Acts - Most important

The Stamp Act was not the most important event in causing the deteriorating relations between Britain and the colonies in the period 1763 to 1775. The most important reason was ~~was~~ the Boston Tea Party and Coercive acts as at this point ~~the~~ the colonists realised the British were hell-bent on subjugation. The Townshend Duties do hold some ~~relative~~ importance in deteriorating relations.

The Stamp Act was somewhat important in causing the deteriorating relations with Britain and the colonies.

The Stamp Act was important because it was the first direct tax which affected everyone in the colonies. The previous Sugar Tax had only impacted the wealthy but the Stamp Tax had a more widespread effect. This can be seen in the reaction from the

colonists. Several assemblies denounced it and wrote to Britain in an attempt to get it revoked and loose economic boycotts were attempted. These weren't very organised so they came to very little. Crucially the Stamp Act ~~didn't~~ signalled the start of violent action in the colonies. The Sons of Liberty were created. In response they destroyed the house of the main stamp collector in Massachusetts and hung effigies of Burke from the Liberty tree.

This shows the Stamp Act ~~is~~ was important in deteriorating relations because the colonists ~~had~~ were to ~~resort to riot~~ so unhappy they had to resort to violence to get their point across to the British.

The colonists managed to get the Act revoked ~~less~~ a year later in 1776. This was important in deteriorating relations as it showed to the colonists they could be successful in making the British do a U-turn and set a trend for later action.

Overall the Stamp Act controversy was ~~the~~ quite important in causing the deteriorating relations between Britain and the colonies.

The Townshend Duties weren't that important in deteriorating relations as ~~it is~~ ~~is~~ action was similar to what was seen with the Stamp Act but on a bigger scale.

The Sons of Liberty still undertook violent action in response to the Townshend Duties. When Adam's boat 'The Liberty' was seized ~~for~~ by the British for smuggling the Sons of Liberty turned up and beat the customs officials senseless. This ~~event~~ ^{led} in turn led to ~~more~~ ^{10k} soldiers being sent over from Britain to police the city. The Sons of Liberty didn't change their response from the Stamp Act ~~at all~~ to the Townshend Duties, violent action was present in both. This is evidence that it is just a continuation of the response from the Stamp Act and nothing of note has changed to cause a further deteriorating in relations.

However economically the colonists were a lot more organised. Merchants in everywhere but New Hampshire introduced a boycott on British goods. Even housewives were doing their part by not sewing tea. This level of organisation affected the British, has 40% of their exports were to the colonies. This shows a deterioration in relations as now the colonists were able to wage effective economic warfare in response to the Townshend duties.

Overall the Townshend duties ~~was~~ weren't that important in causing deteriorating relations between Britain and the colonies because it was a continuation in the response from ^{the Stamp Act.} Britain. ~~There wasn't a~~ ~~major~~ ~~step~~ ~~up~~ ~~to~~ ?

Lastly, the Boston Tea Party and Coercive Acts were the most important event in causing deteriorating relations between Britain and the colonies because it represented a fundamental division in the relationship. It had reached a point of no return.

In December 1773 the Sons of Liberty threw 342 chests worth £10,000 into Boston Harbour.

This action in response to growing tension caused outrage in Britain, so much so they decided to severely punish Massachusetts with the Coercive Acts.

This stated that the Port of Boston would be closed until the Tea ~~was~~ was paid for, and more power for British soldiers generals trying to house and feed soldiers and for a Royal governor who reports directly to the King to be in charge of the colony. ~~The~~

This deteriorated relations because now the colony was effectively under direct rule of the King, soldiers could take food from whomever they pleased and the livelihoods of many citizens in Boston were over because the Port was shut.

It however this was the most important reason for the deterioration of relations because the colonists realised King George and the British were hell-bent on subjugation and the relationship British weren't going to give way.

This led to the development of independence thinking and association of political thought (Enlightenment, John Wives and Whiggism) with British violence.

No longer just with taxation.

Overall the Boston Tea Party + Coercive Acts represented as the most important event in causing the deteriorating relations because it spanned ideas of independence and colonists realised the relationship had reached the point of no return return.

In conclusion the Stamp Act was not the most important event in causing the deteriorating of relations between Britain and the colonies in the period from 1763 to 1775. The Stamp Act and Townshend duties response was symbolic as violence was first used and a mass boycott formed.

However the Boston Tea Party and Coercive Acts were more important because it represented a fundamental division in relations.

Exemplar 6 has a similar core approach but is less developed in terms of line of reasoning, hence Level 4: 12 marks.

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