

**A LEVEL**

**Examiners' report**

# **HISTORY A**

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**H505**

For first teaching in 2015

**Y212/01 Summer 2024 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.

A full copy of the question paper and the mark scheme can be downloaded from OCR.

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## Paper Y212/01 series overview

Y212 is one of 24 units in Paper 2 for the A Level examination for GCE History. This unit tests an extended period of History of about 100 years through a short-answer essay question and a traditional essay question. The paper contains two questions, each having two parts, a short-answer essay and a traditional essay. Candidates have to answer both parts of one question.

To do well on the short-answer essay question, candidates need 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 need to address the issue in the question, using detailed supporting knowledge. To reach the higher levels candidates need to assess the issues they discuss and reach a supported judgement, at least in the conclusion.

Grasp of terminology was significant in question choice. Candidates needed to be confident about the period 1791-6 to succeed with Question 1; it was the more popular choice. Candidates' understanding of 'Federalist' and 'Anti-Federalist' for Question 2 (a) was most likely critical in determining their overall choice of question.

Candidates who did well on this paper generally:	Candidates who did less well on this paper generally:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• were clear about terminology</li><li>• had a clear grasp of chronology and, therefore, relevance</li><li>• could structure their ideas successfully</li><li>• could organise relevant evidence effectively.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• confused terminology in the questions</li><li>• had a muddled sense of chronology and, therefore, relevance</li><li>• struggled to give form to their ideas</li><li>• were short of relevant evidence.</li></ul>

## Question 1 (a)

1

(a) Which of the following was of greater importance in the defeat of the British by 1783?

(i) American unity

(ii) French entry into the war

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

[10]

This question was answered confidently by a good number of candidates. Critical points in determining higher marks were: an appreciation of exactly how the French contributed to British defeat, notably by supplying a navy and opening up other theatres of war; how important American unity was in the early stages and the limitations of that unity. Exemplar 1 (Level 5, 7 marks) is an efficient response which makes the crucial points for both factors. The judgement is brief and contestable but, overall, it does enough for a low Level 5 mark.

## Exemplar 1

1	a	American unity was very <del>significant</del> <sup>important</sup> during the revolution and in the defeat of the British by 1783. Unity between all states, particularly northern & southern, allowed the continental army to act as one in their strategy, rather than random attacks from militia. This was incredibly
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significant as the Americans had a much smaller army of 5-20,000 at a time compared to the British ~~only~~ strength of 50,000 (of which ~~then~~ 18,000 were Hessians they could afford to employ). Much of this unity was due to Washington who's residence in Virginia helped to unite North with South. Furthermore his ~~speeches~~ inspiring leadership saw many more militia join ( $\frac{1}{3}$  of American men fought in some way & 20,000 women volunteered as nurses or cooks) and unite America further - decreasing loyalist support. It also helped strategically, like in Yorktown & Saratoga to have united & informed commanders when the British did not.

French entry into the war - in the summer of 1778 - after Saratoga <sup>important</sup> ~~was significant~~ internationally & tactically. Internationally, it saw others, like Spain, come to American aid & scared the British of a full blown war with France - after French ~~an~~ entry their ~~ship~~ army & navy ~~the~~ in America decreased from ~~45%~~ to 29% and 63% to ~~46%~~ 29% & 46% to 13% ~~due~~ as they brought them back to England

		in case of French attack. France was also
		significant at Yorktown <sup>1781</sup> as their 20 ships
		blocked the Chesapeake Bay - stopping
		British relief. Despite this their actual
		military impact was less as they only
		sent <del>was</del> less than 10,000 troops to
		America.
		Overall American unity was more important
		than French entry as it helped with more
		real war strategy. Although France helped
		with their Navy & internationally, their
		entry had much less impact on battles -
		unlike American unity, and it is these that
		defeated Britain by 1783.

### Question 1 (b)\*

(b)\* How successful was the Bill of Rights (1791) in resolving the problems faced by the early Republic during the period from 1791 to 1796?

[20]

This question required a secure knowledge of the 1791 to 1796 period, as well as a grasp of the Bill of Rights. Successful responses often noted that although the Bill of Rights was successful in reconciling differences over the constitution and therefore giving the US the possibility of a stronger federal government, it had little direct impact on the major problems of the next five years, for instance party divisions, debt and finance, and foreign affairs. Exemplar 2 (Level 4, 12 marks) copes reasonably well with the positive aspects of the Bill of Rights but has limited scope thereafter, diverting onto slavery, which although obviously a concern in the longer term was less salient than other issues in 1791-6.

### Misconception



Candidates needed to cover the problems of 1791-6 and not just confine their response to consideration of the Bill of Rights.

## Exemplar 2

1.	b	<p>The Bill of Rights, established in 1791, after conflict over relations between Federalists and anti-federalists was largely successful in resolving issues presented as a result of American independence such as revolt from colonists and disagreement over the adoption of a singular <del>power</del> central power. However the Bill lacked large reform in terms of slavery, <del>and some of which</del> <del>there</del> there was a large dispute over between the North colonies and the Southern States.</p> <p>Thus overall, the Bill of Rights (1791) was largely successful in resolving the majority of issues in the early republic.</p> <p>One manner in which the Bill of Rights was successful in resolving problems was the establishment and clarification of individual rights owed to each American citizen. The Bill of Rights (BoR) listed the <del>ten</del> first 10 articles of American citizenship and in doing so acclaimed each citizen as equally represented and valued. This was vital in resolving issues during 1791-1796 as potential revolt could arise if citizens believed representation had not changed after the revolution and they were still being misrepresented by a central administration such as that of British control. Thus, the <del>Bill</del> BoR was largely successful in resolving issues to do with the establishment of American rights within this period.</p>
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In a similar manner, the BoR was mostly successful in resolving conflict between Federalist and anti-federalist which procured throughout this period. A shift from a central government was something that was of high request from Anti-Federalists due to ~~past~~ fear of repetition of British rule. Whereas Federalists believed a central government was the best option for independence, ~~these~~ Anti-Federalists, and assisted heavily by the BoR were able to reduce the strength of central government, resulting in the election of President Washington, the first president of the United States. Washington's rule allowed for both the executive sector of which he was a part of, the legislative sector of which granted each state two seats at the Senate, alongside ~~the~~ population based representation in the House of Representatives for greater representation, alongside the judicial branch, allowing for better judgement to be made over issue within the country. Therefore, the BoR support in establishing a bicameral office at the head of beloved president George Washington was very successful in resolving the issue of a central government from 1791-1796.

One issue that was left largely unresolved by the BoR between this period was the issue of Slavery. Whereas the southern states largely endorsed the use of slave labour, Northern States greatly opposed it. The BoR did little to oppose this initially, only stating

within the first ten amendments, that slaves were ~~often~~<sup>→ men voting</sup> represented as  $\frac{3}{5}$  of an American citizen. Although this may present itself as a form of resolve to the debate over slavery, this thought is heavily countered by the fact that many Americans believed it was pointless ~~was~~ maintaining any sort of vote, when you are not represented by its outcomes, a point they had ~~been~~ rallied for under British rule; 'no taxation without representation'. On top of this, the main dispute over ~~the~~ the nature of slavery was for individual freedom, ~~for~~ something that had little mention in the first issue of the BoR. ~~However~~ Although this was later resolved with the 13th amendment, the issue of slavery still remained a large issue throughout the period of 1791-1796 until it resolved, thus presenting the <sup>1791</sup> BoR is unsuccessful in resolving this issue.

Overall, the BoR (1791) was largely successful in resolving issues ~~caused~~ ~~to~~ within the early Republic from 1791-1796, assisting in the reconstruction of government and garnering more representation for American citizens, issues that dominated the early Republic. However, the 1791 BoR was largely unsuccessful in resolving the issue caused by slavery, and had to go ~~undergo~~ further future resolve ~~in the future~~ to fix this issue as it grew into a more pressing matter.

## Question 2 (a)

2

(a) Which of the following was more responsible for the ratification of the 1787 Constitution?

(i) The weakness of the Anti-Federalists

(ii) The strength of the Federalists

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

[10]

The most successful responses to this question had a clear grasp of the differing cultural backgrounds of the two groupings, as well as the significant advantage in leading personnel and propaganda enjoyed by the Federalists. References to Shays' rebellion could be useful, as could the fact that anti-Federalists did not really provide an alternative plan to that of the Federalists. The most successful responses made reference to Hamilton's Federalist papers and were clear about who supported each group.

## Question 2 (b)\*

(b)\* 'British colonial relations with the settlers were better than British colonial relations with the Native American Indians.'

How far do you agree?

[20]

This question offered a lot of scope for different responses, not least because there were no dates specified. Candidates generally considered the period 1740 to 1776; some legitimately went as far as 1783. Organising material over a long, evolving period could prove a challenge. While some went for a thematic approach, for instance considering the impact of economic links, warfare and politics, others considered the settlers and Native Americans separately. Either strategy could work, if executed well. Exemplar 3 (Level 5, 14 marks) makes a reasonable attempt at a structured approach and covers a long period to the War of Independence. Support is accurate and, although the line of reasoning is not fully developed, reading more like an explained list of factors, the response reaches a substantiated judgement, hence Level 5.

## Exemplar 3

2	b	<p>I disagree to a large extent with the statement of 'British colonial relations being with settlers were better than British colonial relations with Native Americans'. The statement can be assessed by through events showing aggression towards colonists by Native Americans such as the French and Indian war from 1754-1763 and Pontiac's Rebellion of 1763 and the way the British reacted to it. The impact of legislature by the British on the settlers and Native Americans and lastly the relationships between Britain, the settlers and Native Americans during the revolutionary war. The significance of these 3 factors can be judged using the criteria of legacy, depth and immediate impact.</p> <p>The British reaction toward Native American (NA) aggression toward the settlers showed Britain had good colonial relations with settlers and poor relations with NAs. This can be shown by Britain's role in supporting the settlers in the war as over 10000 British soldiers were stationed in the colonies between 1754-1763. Relations between Britain and the settlers were at an all-time high as the <del>French</del> <sup>settlers</sup> and British fought alongside each other at Fort Necessity in 1754, Fort Duquesne in 1758, Montreal in 1759 and Quebec in 1760. British relations with Native Americans were tense at the time as NAs had allied with the French. For example, at the battle of Fort Duquesne in 1758, a coalition of 700 French and Indian</p>
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soldiers ambushed 400 redcoats, killing 300 which clearly shows that during the French-Indian war until 1763, relations were much stronger with the settlers than the NAs as Britain had protected the settlers from NA and French coalition as well as Britain's victory at Quiboron bay in 1760 destroying 10 ships and killing 2000 French sailors resulting in France being forced to pull out of colonial warfare, aiding the colonies. Pontiac's Rebellion in 1763 also showed positive relations between Britain and settlers as NAs destroyed 12 forts west of the Niagara and killed 2000 settlers. In response, Britain sent 2000 troops to protect the colonists. Overall, early parts of the course show Britain to have very good relations with the settlers and poor relations with NAs.

British legislature also had an effect on British colonial relations with NAs and settlers. For example, The Proclamation act of 1763 appeared to favour NAs rather than settlers as settlers were not allowed to move west of the Appalachians which angered settlers and around 10000 settlers ignored the act and moved west in 1763. This showed a deterioration of relations between Britain and settlers as settlers thought it was their right to move west and better colonial relations with NAs as it protected their land. Other policies of legislature

Such as taxation whilst with the 1764 sugar act and 1765 stamp act and 1767 townshend duties all directly affected the settlers as it was a tax on over 100 separate duties which angered the settlers and led to the revolutionary idea of 'no taxation without representation' and were hugely damaging on relations between Britain and the settlers, whilst not affecting N.A.s. Events such as the Boston massacre in 1770, where 5 Bostonians died and the Boston tea party in 1773 where 343 chests of tea worth over £10,000 further damaged British-settler relations as they led to the 1774 Coercive acts which shows British legislature weakened British-settler relations whilst not affecting British NA relations. Overall, In terms of legislature, Britain maintained better relations with N.A.'s than settlers.

The war of Independence showed further damage to British-settler relations, as although settlers sent the Olive Branch petition in 1775 in order to repair relations after Lexington-Concord in 1775, it was ignored and relations continued to deteriorate throughout the war. This became most clear in the Battle of Cowpens in 1780 as over 1000 surrendering colonial troops were slaughtered and colonists used it as propaganda. The British had an alliance with the Iroquois, but it was short lived so relations remained relatively unchanged.

		and therefore the War of Independence severely damaged British-settler relations and had little effect on NA relations
		Overall, I <sup>agree with</sup> believe the statement to be <del>true</del> a large extent during the early years as <del>for</del> a result of the French Indian war and the Pontiac rebellion proving relations to be strong between Britain and the settlers. However in terms of <del>late</del> legislature and war, I believe relations to be better with NAs

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