

Pearson Edexcel
International Advanced Level

History

**International Advanced
Paper 3: Thematic Study with Source Evaluation
Option 1A: The USA, Independence to Civil War,
1763–1865**

Wednesday 6 June 2018 – Afternoon
Sources Booklet

Paper Reference

WHI03/1A

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Sources for use with SECTION A.

Source 1: From a journal written by Ebenezer Denny of Pennsylvania. He was an officer in the Continental Army. Here he gives an eyewitness account of the surrender of the British army at Yorktown, Virginia in 1781, which was the last major battle of the war.

Our Continental Army division held the lines again. All is quiet. Articles of surrender signed; detachments of French and Americans take possession of British forts. Major Hamilton commanded a battalion which took possession of a fort immediately opposite our right and on the bank of the York river. I carried the standard of our regiment on this occasion. The British army parade and march out with their colours furled; drums beat as if they did not care that they had surrendered. They put down their arms and return to town. Much confusion and riot among the British throughout the day; many of the soldiers were intoxicated; several attempts in the course of the night to break open stores; an American sentry killed by a British soldier with a bayonet; our patrols kept busy. 5

Glad to be relieved from this disagreeable guard post. I never was in so filthy a place. There are some handsome houses here, but all have been tremendously damaged. Vast heaps of shot and shells lying about in every quarter, which came from our own factories. Many of these shells had not burst. We captured six thousand British soldiers as prisoners, and about one thousand seamen. 10

Lord Cornwallis, the commander of the British forces, excused himself from marching out with the troops. Our loss was said to be about three hundred; that of the enemy more than five hundred and fifty. 15

Source 2: From a British parliamentary debate in 1782 on the surrender at Yorktown and the subsequent loss of America. Here Lord Chandos, previously a government supporter, gives his views on the events.

From the papers which have, day after day, been read to your lordships, it is very clear to me what was the immediate cause of the capture of the British army under Lord Cornwallis. This happened because of the lack of a large enough naval force in nearby Chesapeake Bay, to cover and protect the army. Furthermore, owing to our army being supplied with limited amounts of men, and the numerical superiority of the well-maintained and supported enemy, our misfortunes have accumulated upon us. This is the argument that I make. 20

I do not, however, mean to throw the whole blame on the Admiralty for not having appointed a sufficient naval force to protect the British army at Yorktown; they derived their authority, and received their orders, from the Cabinet. Though the Admiralty were responsible in some measure for their conduct, it was the Cabinet that was ultimately so in the present instance. It was owing to the Cabinet that the army at Yorktown, under Lord Cornwallis, had been captured and America lost to this country. Why was not a greater number of ships sent on so important a service? Why were not the armies of this country properly increased? Why did we not make alliances with other countries, instead of sending half a dozen or a dozen British officers all over Germany to collect 1000 or 1500 mercenary troops? Our disasters have convinced me of the need to press for an enquiry. 25

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