

# OCR

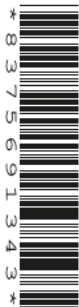
Oxford Cambridge and RSA

## Wednesday 6 October 2021 – Morning

### A Level History A

**Y311/01** The Origins and Growth of the British Empire 1558–1783

**Time allowed: 2 hours 30 minutes**



**You must have:**

- the OCR 12-page Answer Booklet

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Use black ink.
- Write your answer to each question in the Answer Booklet. The question numbers must be clearly shown.
- Fill in the boxes on the front of the Answer Booklet.
- Answer the question in Section A and **any two** questions in Section B.

#### INFORMATION

- The total mark for this paper is **80**.
- The marks for each question are shown in brackets [ ].
- Quality of extended response will be assessed in questions marked with an asterisk (\*).
- This document has **4** pages.

#### ADVICE

- Read each question carefully before you start your answer.

## SECTION A

Read the two passages and then answer Question 1.

- 1 Evaluate the interpretations in **both** of the two passages and explain which you think is more convincing as an explanation of the economic relationship between Britain and the American colonies in the period from 1660 to 1713. [30]

**Passage A**

A series of 'Navigation Acts' governing Britain and its colonies embodied mercantilism. First, the laws limited imperial trade to British-owned ships whose crews were three-quarters British. At first the American colonists and some in the English business community objected because the Dutch offered better prices, credit and merchandise. After 1700, however, the rising quality of the British merchant removed this cause for complaint. The new shipping restrictions laid the foundations for an American merchant marine. The swift growth of this merchant marine diversified the colonial economy and made it more self-sufficient. The expansion of colonial shipping hastened urbanisation. The Navigation system encouraged economic diversification. Parliament paid modest bounties to Americans producing a variety of goods that Britain would otherwise have had to import from foreign countries. A final consequence of the Navigation Acts was to enrich the American colonies. By, in effect, guaranteeing colonial access to British markets, the Acts stimulated British imports of American goods and rewarded the Americans with increasing prosperity. Exports to the colonies soared. More and more colonists adopted middle-class lifestyles, making the colonies the 'best poor man's country in the world'. Few colonists felt negative effects. During the first 120 years of the Navigation Acts, North America's economic growth was double that of Great Britain.

**Adapted from: P. Boyer, The Enduring Vision: A history of the American people, published in 2007.**

**Passage B**

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**Adapted from: O. Bullock, The Witch Craze in Britain, Europe and North America c1580–c1750, published in 2016.**

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**SECTION B**

Answer **TWO** of the following three questions.

- 2\*** How important were trading and chartered companies in British exploitation of its colonies in the period from 1558 to 1783? **[25]**
- 3\*** Assess the impact on Britain of its colonies and empire during the period from 1558 to 1783. **[25]**
- 4\*** 'Throughout the period from 1558 to 1783 imperial conflict between the European powers was mainly focused on the Caribbean.' How far do you agree? **[25]**

**END OF QUESTION PAPER**

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