



RADLEY

2022 Scholarship Examination Paper

HISTORY (COMMON PAPER)

24 February 2022

Time allowed – 30 minutes

The paper consists of a primary source and three questions.

Each question is worth 10 marks.

You are expected to be able to write accurate, grammatical, well punctuated prose throughout the paper.

Read the source below and answer the three questions that follow:

This extract is from a weekly American newspaper. The newspaper was published in the town of Boston, Massachusetts and its articles (focusing mainly on political issues) were often published in other newspapers across America. The British authorities in Boston had attempted to shut down the newspaper in 1775.

This extract describes the reaction in Boston to the Declaration of Independence. The Declaration of Independence was a document completed on 4 July 1776 by the Continental Congress (the equivalent of an American parliament), stating why the original thirteen American colonies no longer considered themselves to be under the rule of the British King George III. The Declaration came in the second year of the American War of Independence, fought between the British (with the help of their loyalist allies) and the thirteen American colonies who sought independence from the British Empire.

The Massachusetts Spy, 25 July 1776:

On Monday last, a number of patriotic gentlemen of this town, animated with a love of their country and keen to show their approval of the measures lately taken by the Continental Congress, assembled on the green. After having displayed the colours of the Thirteen Colonies of America, the bells were set a-ringing and the drums a-beating, after which the Declaration of Independence of the United States was read to a large and respectable body assembled for the occasion. They testified their approval by firing of musketry and cannon, bonfires, and other demonstrations of joy. The arms of that Tyrant in Britain— George the III of execrable memory, in former times decorated and celebrated but of late disgraced— were committed to the flames and consumed to ashes. After this a select company of the Sons of Freedom^ retreated to the Tavern— previously known by the sign of the King's Arms but with this signature of despotism since taken down by order of the people and cheerfully complied with by the Innkeeper— where toasts were drunk. The evening was spent with joy on the commencement of this happy era. The greatest decency and good order was observed, and at a suitable time each man returned to his respective home.*

* execrable = extremely bad or unpleasant

^ The Sons of Freedom = a mixture of American soldiers and patriotic civilians

- a) What can be learned from this source about Boston in 1776? Explain with reference to the text. **(10 marks)**
- b) Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of this source as evidence in a historical enquiry about attitudes to the Declaration of Independence in America in 1776. **(10 marks)**
- c) The Declaration of Independence was an important moment in the American War of Independence as it helped to encourage the French to enter the war on the side of the American colonists. Reflecting on a battle or war that you have studied, explain why a particular event represented an important turning point. **(10 marks)**