

5.3 Britain’s Ascendancy

Name: _____ Class: _____ Date: _____ **Total: 12 marks**

KEY WORDS britain’s ascendancy 英国的崛起 • fiscal crisis 财政危机

Objective

Build the skills to explain **Britain’s ascendancy** 英国的崛起.

You must be able to:

- name the sources of British advantage
- explain the fiscal advantage of parliamentary consent
- describe the role of naval power
- state the consequence for France

1 Worked examples

Study these first. Each one shows the method for a task used later.

■ Sources of advantage

A fiscal system able to borrow cheaply, a navy able to protect trade and deny it to rivals, a commercial and colonial network, and political stability after the constitutional settlement.

■ Fiscal advantage

Because taxation required parliamentary consent, lenders believed the debt would be honoured; the state therefore borrowed at lower rates and could sustain longer wars than rivals with larger populations.

■ Naval power

A navy protects one’s own trade and denies the enemy’s, which turns a war into an economic contest that the stronger trading power wins over time.

■ Consequence for France

The same wars left France with debt and without the fiscal machinery to service it, which is the direct link between 5.3 and 5.4’s revolution.

2 Practice

2.1 Name three sources of British advantage. [3]

2.2 Explain why parliamentary consent lowered borrowing costs. [2]

2.3 Two states fight the same wars; one emerges dominant and the other in fiscal crisis.

(a) State the mechanism. [1]

(b) State the link to the next subtopic. [1]

3 Exam-style questions

3.1 A navy turns a war into [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** a purely land contest
B an economic contest the stronger trading power wins over time
C a religious dispute
D a stalemate always

3.2 Lenders charged Britain less because they believed [1]

- | | |
|---|---|
| A | B |
| C | D |
- A** the crown could repudiate freely
B a body representing them would honour the debt
C the navy would seize their money
D interest was illegal

3.3 A state borrows at a lower rate than its rival for thirty years.

(a) State the cumulative effect. [1]

(b) Explain how it converts into military advantage. [2]
