

Past-paper walk-through

The Rise of Political Parties and the Era of Jefferson ■ 4.2

eXercise

Questions in this set

- 2025 Set 1 Q1
- 2024 Set 2 Q3

Reading the mark scheme

- **B1** a mark that stands on its own – the point is either made or not.
- **M1** a *method* mark: the right approach, even if the number is wrong.
- **A1** an *answer* mark, and it usually needs its M mark first.
- **C1** a working mark on the way to the answer.
- **//** separates answers the examiner accepts equally.
- **ecf** = error carried forward: a later part is marked on your own earlier answer.
- **owtte** = “or words to that effect” – the wording need not match.

Question 1

2025 Set 1 ■ Q1

It is presented here in a format optimized for teacher and student use in the classroom.

3 Source 1 “The...rise of American democracy was an extraordinary part of the most profound transformation in modern history.... The American Revolution had proved more egalitarian¹ in its outcome than many of its leaders had hoped or expected it would be in 1776.... Portions of the [people] once largely excluded from the exercise of power were now among the people’s governors. Efforts to rein in the egalitarian impulse had faltered.... [But] democracy’s achievements were fragile...and its future far from guaranteed.... [After 1800,] by beating back [the Federalists], the Jeffersonian ascendancy opened up the political system.... The filters on democracy created by the Framers [of the Constitution] were proving porous, while the suppression of democracy sought by the Federalists in the 1790s was thoroughly discredited.” Source: Sean Wilentz, historian, *The Rise of American Democracy: Jefferson to Lincoln*, 2005

Question 1

Source 2 “[After the American Revolution] elite men from [many] states...create[d] a new national government designed to be a stronger barrier against democracy.... Ordinary folk continued to resist.... But they remained unable to mobilize in ways that would bring the changes they wanted.... It would be an enduring victory for the elite. Although the Federalists both fell politically and personally, the system they created to check democracy has lasted.... Although the Democratic- Republicans rode to power...across the nation by promising to restore the popular vision of the Revolution,...most Democratic-Republican leaders...were content to leave the bulk of the Federalist system in place.... To these men, ‘reform’...did not mean pulling down the barriers to democracy that they had helped to create.” Source: Terry Bouton, historian, *Taming Democracy: “The People,” the Founders, and the Troubled Ending of the American Revolution*, 2007 1: equal

Respond to parts A, B, and C.

Question 1

- (a)** Briefly describe one major difference between Wilentz's and Bouton's historical interpretations of early United States politics.
- (b)** Briefly explain how one event or development from 1789 to 1820 not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Wilentz's argument about early United States politics.
- (c)** Briefly explain how one event or development from 1789 to 1820 not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Bouton's argument about early United States politics.

Solution 1

(a) Mark scheme

- Briefly describe one major difference between Wilentz's and Bouton's historical interpretations of early United States politics. (1 point) — accept any: Wilentz claims that early United States politics proved more egalitarian than the Founders had wanted, while Bouton argues that elite men remained in positions of power after the Revolution.; Wilentz argues that the influence of the Federalists on early United States politics diminished after the Election of 1800, whereas Bouton argues that Federalist ideals continued to shape the political system after the decline of the Federalists.; Wilentz argues that the Jeffersonian ascendancy opened up the political system, while Bouton argues that elites sought to create a barrier against democracy.; Wilentz argues that the rise of the Democratic-Republicans

Solution 1

after 1800 helped the expansion of democracy, while Bouton argues that the Federalists limitations on democracy were largely maintained.; Source 1 argues that the Revolution created more opportunities for democratic participation, while Source 2 argues that the Revolution did not result in widespread democracy.

Solution 1

(b) Mark scheme

- Briefly explain how one event or development from 1789 to 1820 not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Wilentz's argument about early United States politics. (1 point) — accept any: The passage of the Bill of Rights shows how the new government protected the rights of individuals, which supports Wilentz's argument about growing democratic power.; The expansion of suffrage to adult white men by states removing property restrictions on voting supports Wilentz's argument about the expansion of democracy in the United States.; The gradual emancipation of enslaved people in some states supports Wilentz's argument about democratic ideals.

Solution 1

(c) Mark scheme

- Briefly explain how one event or development from 1789 to 1820 not directly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Bouton's argument about early United States politics. (1 point) — accept any: Bouton argues that elites retained most of the power in the federal government under the Constitution, and the Supreme Court decisions that established the primacy of the judiciary in deciding whether laws passed by elected officials were constitutional supports this claim.; Most early political leaders and presidents were wealthy men, which supports Bouton's argument that the Revolution did not result in democratic change.; After 1800 Democratic Republican leadership continued Federalist economic and political policies regarding a strong central government.; The

Solution 1

restriction on voting rights for women supports Bouton's argument that the Revolution did not immediately result in a fully democratic society.; The framework of government established by the Constitution, including the Senate and the Electoral College, insulated elites from popular democratic influence.; The continuation of slavery, despite the ideals of the Declaration of Independence, showed the limits of the American Revolution.

Question 3

2024 Set 2 ■ Q3

Respond to parts a, b, and c.

- (a)** Briefly describe one United States government policy from 1783 to 1840.
- (b)** Briefly explain one similarity OR difference in how two groups responded to political change in the United States from 1783 to 1840.
- (c)** Briefly explain how one historical development from 1840 to 1860 contributed to regional divisions.

Solution 3

(a) Mark scheme

- Briefly describe one United States government policy from 1783 to 1840. (1 point) — accept any: The United States remained neutral during the war between Great Britain and France.; The United States avoided permanent foreign alliances.; The United States created a system for admitting new states through the Northwest Ordinance.; The United States expanded west by purchasing Louisiana.; The Missouri Compromise drew a line determining whether new states were free or slave states.; The United States formed treaties with Native Americans in an attempt to gain control of more land.; The federal government fought wars with Native American nations to gain control of more land.; The federal government created the First National Bank.

Solution 3

(b) Mark scheme

- Briefly explain one similarity OR difference in how two groups responded to political change in the United States from 1783 to 1840. (1 point) — accept any: Democratic-Republicans and Democrats both resisted the centralization of the federal government.; Black and White abolitionists opposed the expansion of slavery.; The Federalist Party encouraged a stronger central government, while the Democratic-Republican Party supported a weaker central government.; While some groups argued that slavery was protected by the Constitution, others sought to limit its growth or end it altogether.; Advocates for western expansion championed efforts to use federal power to forcibly remove Native Americans, while Native Americans and others resisted their efforts through warfare and the

Solution 3

court system.; The Democratic Party formed to oppose federal involvement in the economy, while the Whig Party formed to encourage government promotion of economic development.; As immigration to the United States grew, recent immigrants from Ireland and Germany attempted to preserve elements of their language and culture, while nativists tried to limit immigrants' political power.

Solution 3

(c) Mark scheme

- Briefly explain how one historical development from 1840 to 1860 contributed to regional divisions. (1 point) — accept any: The growing power of the abolition movement in the North contributed to political conflict with the South.; The Compromise of 1850 increased sectional tensions over government protections for slavery.; The Kansas-Nebraska Act increased sectional tension and led to Bleeding Kansas.; The passage of the Fugitive Slave Act intensified Northern abolitionists' opposition to Southern measures to protect and expand slavery.; The Mexican-American war intensified regional divisions on whether slavery should be allowed to expand into western territories.; Southern states seceded from the United States following the election of Abraham Lincoln.