

Correction of the Exam Paper : Civilisation Americaine / 2020 – 2021

- 1) The Pilgrims, also known as the Pilgrim Fathers, sailed to America on the **Mayflower**. The Mayflower was a historic ship that transported the English Separatists, known as the Pilgrims, along with other individuals seeking religious freedom, to the New World in 1620. This voyage marked a significant event in the early colonial history of what would later become the United States.
- 2) The Mayflower Compact was a foundational democratic agreement created and signed by the Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower ship on **November 11, 1620**. The Compact established a basic legal system and social contract for the Plymouth Colony, which was then established in what is now Massachusetts. It was a crucial step in the early development of American democracy and is considered one of the earliest examples of self-government in the American colonies. The Mayflower Compact emphasized the importance of the consent of the governed and laid the groundwork for the principles of democratic governance that would later influence the formation of the United States of America.
- 3) The English established their first permanent settlement in North America at **Jamestown, Virginia, in 1607**. Jamestown was founded by the Virginia Company of London as a business venture with the goal of establishing a profitable colonial settlement in the New World. Despite initial struggles, including conflicts with local Indigenous populations and challenges related to disease and food shortages, Jamestown eventually became the first successful English settlement in the Americas, setting the stage for future English and, later, British colonization efforts in North America.
- 4) The Stamp Act of 1765 was enacted by the British Parliament with **the primary goal of raising revenue from the American colonies to support British military operations and colonial defense following the Seven Years' War**. The act imposed direct taxes on a wide range of printed materials in the colonies, requiring these materials to bear a revenue stamp. However, this imposition of taxation without colonial representation led to widespread opposition and protests among the American colonists, sparking significant tensions that ultimately contributed to the onset of the American Revolution.

- 5) The Coercive Acts, also known as the Intolerable Acts in the American colonies, were a series of punitive measures imposed by the British Parliament in 1774 in response to the Boston Tea Party and other acts of colonial defiance. The four main Coercive Acts were:

- **Boston Port Act:** This act closed the port of Boston until the East India Company was repaid for the destroyed tea during the Boston Tea Party.

- **Massachusetts Government Act:** This act altered the colonial charter of Massachusetts, significantly reducing the colony's ability to govern itself and limiting town meetings.

- **Administration of Justice Act:** This act allowed the royal governor to send colonial officials to other colonies or to Great Britain for trial if they were accused of committing capital offenses while suppressing colonial unrest.

- **Quartering Act:** This act required colonists to provide housing and provisions for British soldiers stationed in the colonies, often without the consent of the local assemblies.

These Coercive Acts were intended to assert British authority over the colonies and to punish the Massachusetts colonists for their resistance to British policies, but they ultimately fueled further resentment and resistance, contributing to the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War.

- 6) The First Continental Congress convened in **Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, from September 5 to October 26, 1774**. It was a convention of delegates from twelve of the thirteen North American colonies that united in response to the oppressive acts imposed by the British Parliament, including the Coercive Acts, and in protest of British colonial policies. The First Continental Congress marked a significant step toward colonial unity and played a crucial role in organizing colonial resistance to British rule.
- 7) The Articles of Confederation, the first constitution of the United States, consisted of **thirteen articles**. These articles were adopted by the Second Continental Congress on November 15, 1777. The Articles of Confederation served as the governing document of the newly formed United States during the American Revolution and

were eventually replaced by the United States Constitution, which was ratified in 1788.

- 8) Women during the American Revolution played significant roles in various capacities, including:

- **Spies and Informants:** Women served as spies, gathering and relaying intelligence about British activities to support the colonial forces.

- **Soldiers and Combatants:** Some women disguised themselves as men to join the fight for independence, participating in battles and supporting the Continental Army.

- **Homefront Support:** Women managed households, farms, and businesses while men were away fighting, ensuring the continuity of daily life and providing essential support for the colonial forces.

- 9) The Emancipation Proclamation was published by President Abraham Lincoln on January 1, 1863, during the American Civil War. The proclamation declared all enslaved individuals in the Confederate states to be "forever free," effectively granting them freedom from bondage. While it didn't immediately free all slaves in the United States, it marked a significant milestone in the fight against slavery and was a critical step toward the eventual abolition of slavery in the nation.

- 10) Two forms of expression of democracy in history are direct democracy and representative democracy:

- **Direct Democracy:** In this form of democracy, citizens participate directly in decision-making processes, often through assemblies or mass meetings. Ancient Athens is a notable historical example of direct democracy, where male citizens actively participated in the governance of the city-state, voting on laws and policies.

- **Representative Democracy:** Representative democracy involves the election of individuals to represent the interests and views of the people in decision-making processes. These elected representatives then make laws and policies on behalf of the citizens. Modern democratic systems, such as those found in many countries today,

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including the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, are examples of representative democracies.