Further Subject: Constructing the First New Nation

Collection Paper TT2020

CANDIDATES SHOULD COMPLETE THREE QUESTIONS. THEIR ANSWERS SHOULD SHOW FAMILIARITY WITH THE SET TEXTS. (For the purposes of this collection, answers may be drawn from one section or both. In FHS 2021 Candidates will be asked to complete at least one answer from each section).

Section A

1/. Elected members of the federal House of Representatives “will consist of those harpies of power that prey on the very vitals, that riot on the miseries of the community” (Report of the Minority of the Pennsylvania Ratifying Convention). How did defenders of the Constitution address this critique?

2/. “That fashionable liberality which refuses to associate with any one sect of Christians, is seldom useful to itself or to society” (BENJAMIN RUSH, PLAN FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC SCHOOLS). To what extent did such views shape the construction of the early American republic?

3/. Did the treatment of faction in The Federalist reflect a scientific approach to politics?

4/. “We are told that man first existed in a state of nature apart from all society....In fact man is a herd animal, it would be truer to say that a state of society is the natural state of man” (THE LETTERS OF AGRIPPA). What relationships made societies natural OR unnatural?

5/. What role did theories of political economy play in generating opposition to Alexander Hamilton’s economic programme?

6/. What was pragmatic and what was principled in Chief Justice Marshall’s resolution of Marbury vs. Madison?

Section B

7/. “Most English colonists did not conceive of society in rational, mechanistic, terms; rather society was organic and developmental” (GORDON S. WOOD). To what extent had American attitudes toward society changed by 1801?

8/. “We have an immensity of land courting the industry of the husbandryman” (THOMAS JEFFERSON, NOTES ON THE STATE OF VIRGINIA). What conclusions did Jefferson and his supporters draw from this?

9/. Can we trace the development of partisan political culture in the 1790s to a single identifiable cause?
10/. Where and with what effect might we observe a distinction between market participation and market orientation in this period?

11/. Why were “hidden histories” so often used as an organising device for journalistic polemic?

12/. How was a nation proud of its distinctive modernity able to accommodate the institution of chattel slavery?

13/. “In the case of an intimate and constitutional union, like that of the United States, it is evident that the interposition of the parties, in their sovereign capacity, can be called for by occasions only [sic] deeply an essentially affecting the vital principles of their political system” (JAMES MADISON, REPORT OF 1800). What policies enacted by John Adams persuaded Madison to invoke a doctrine of interposition?

14/. What lessons did Americans draw from events in France and its colonies?