Exercise walk-through

Britain's Ascendency ▪ 5.3

eXercise

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

Method — 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.

Method — 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.

Method — 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.

Method — 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.

Practice 2.1 ▪ 3 marks

Name three sources of British advantage.

Solution 2.1

Method: Sources of advantage

Worked steps

any three of: cheap borrowing; naval power; a commercial and colonial network; political stability after the settlement **B3**.

Practice 2.2 ▪ 2 marks

Explain why parliamentary consent lowered borrowing costs.

Solution 2.2

Method: Fiscal advantage

Worked steps

taxation required the consent of a body representing the lenders **B1**, so the debt was believed secure and the rate fell **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ▪ 1 mark

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

(a) State the mechanism.

(b) State the link to the next subtopic.

Solution 2.3

Method: Consequence for France

Worked steps

(a) the difference in fiscal systems and borrowing costs **B1**. (b) French debt without the machinery to service it produces the crisis of 5.4 **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ▪ 1 mark

A navy turns a war into

A a purely land contest

B an economic contest the stronger trading power wins over time

C a religious dispute

D a stalemate always

Solution 3.1

Method: Naval power

A a purely land contest

B an economic contest the stronger trading power wins over time ✓

C a religious dispute

D a stalemate always

Worked steps

B. protecting one's own trade and denying the enemy's is decisive over time.

Exam-style 3.2 ▪ 1 mark

Lenders charged Britain less because they believed

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

Solution 3.2

Method: Fiscal advantage

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

Worked steps

B. representation made the promise credible.

Exam-style 3.3 ▪ 1 mark

A state borrows at a lower rate than its rival for thirty years.
(a) State the cumulative effect.
(b) Explain how it converts into military advantage.

Solution 3.3

Method: Fiscal advantage

Worked steps

(a) a very large difference in the total cost of the same borrowing **B1**. (b) the saving funds ships, troops and subsidies to allies **B1**, so the cheaper borrower fields more force for the same real cost **B1**.