**United States History Klausur
The John F. Kennedy School**Florian Klawun, et al.

**Theme:** Was the American System Advantageous for Americans?

**Directions**: Write one unified essay, which evaluates two opposing visions for America embodied in the first political parties. The documents provided must be integrated into the body of your essay. You may paraphrase or quote the documents, but in either case you must cite the source (document, line number). When analyzing the material, provide *specific* historical references—utilizing both the documents provided and previous historical knowledge—to support your thesis.

Provide an appropriate title for your essay. Write on both sides of the paper, number the pages, leave five lines between paragraphs and underline your thesis statement.

1) Identify and describe three objectives of Henry Clay's American System.

2) Carefully analyze the documents which illustrate how the American System impacted the different regions of the US.

3) Based upon your assessment of the impacts of the American System, develop a well-constructed analytical essay which utilizes specific evidence to evaluate the following statement:

'The American System, despite contributing to regional economic differences, established a greater sense of American unity as it strengthened the American economy in general and provided for the benefit of the majority of Americans.'

**Source A: Speech of Henry Clay on the American System in the House of Representatives. March 30, 1824.**

The decision on the system of policy embraced in this debate, involves the future destiny of this growing country. One way...it would lead to deep and general distress; general bankruptcy and national ruin; the other, the existing prosperity will be preserved and augmented, and the nation will continue rapidly to advance in wealth, power and greatness...

 Today we behold cultivation extended, the arts flourishing, the face of the country improved, our people fully and profitably employed...a People out of debt; land rising slowly in value, but in a secure and salutary degree; a ready, though not extravagant market for all the surplus productions of our industry; innumerable flocks and herds browsing and gamboling on ten thousand hills and plains, covered with rich and verdant grasses; our cities expanded, and whole villages springing up, as it were, by enchantment; our exports and imports increased and increasing; our tonnage [shipping], foreign and coastwise, swelling and fully occupied; the rivers of our interior animated by the perpetual thunder and lightning of countless steam boats; the currency sound and abundant; the public debt of two wars nearly redeemed; and, to crown all, the public treasury overflowing....

This transformation of the condition of the country from gloom and distress to brightness and prosperity, has been mainly the work of American legislation, fostering American industry, instead of allowing it to be controlled by foreign legislation, cherishing foreign industry...

When gentlemen have succeeded in their design of an immediate or gradual destruction of the American System, what is their substitute? Free trade! Free trade! The call for free trade, is as unavailing as the cry of a spoiled child, in its nurse's arms, for the moon or the stars that glitter in the firmament of heaven. It never has existed; it never will exist....

Gentlemen deceive themselves. It is not free trade that they are recommending to our acceptance. It is, in effect, the British colonial system that we are invited to adopt; and, if their policy prevail, it will lead, substantially, to the re-colonization of these States, under the commercial dominion of Great Britain.