**Analysis activity 7.2: Document analysis**

Read the following extract from G.J. Lamb on weaknesses within the Articles of Confederation:

*The war effort demanded a measure of central authority; the Second Continental Congress had organized a government under the Articles of Confederation for that purpose. Struggling to break free from a strong government, however, Americans were understandably reluctant to establish another strong government in its place. The notorious weakness of the Articles Government was probably intentional.*

*Once independence had been achieved, however, disturbing flaws began to appear. Shays’ Rebellion in Massachusetts posed a threat to order; worthless paper money printed in Rhode Island clearly threatened property and the status of the wealthy. Threats like these could only be dealt with by a vigorous and competent central government. The Articles Government, moreover, had no authority to negotiate trade agreements; each of the new states was forced to negotiate on its own, with far less than satisfactory results. It was at a meeting in Annapolis called to deal with this latter problem that discussions soon focused on the need for a stronger central government.*

1. According to Lamb, why were the Americans reluctant to form a strong central government?

1. What reasons does Lamb give to justify the need for a competent central government?

1. Which level of government had the power to negotiate trade?