

Document Based Essay: Grade 7

“The American Revolution”

Directions :

The following question is based on the accompanying documents (1-5). This question is designed to test your ability to work with historic documents. As you analyze the documents, take into account both the sources of the document and the author’s point of view.

Historical Context

For years the tensions had increased between the British and their American Colonies. In the late 1700 the American Colonies fought against their King to become an independent nation.

Task:

Using information from the documents and your knowledge of social studies, answer the questions that follow each document in Part A. Your answers to the questions will help you write the Part B essay in which you will be asked to.

- ✎ Describe three causes of the American Revolution.
- ✎ Discuss the importance of two individuals to the American victory in the Revolutionary War.
- ✎ Explain two major battles in the revolution and how they impacted the result of the war.

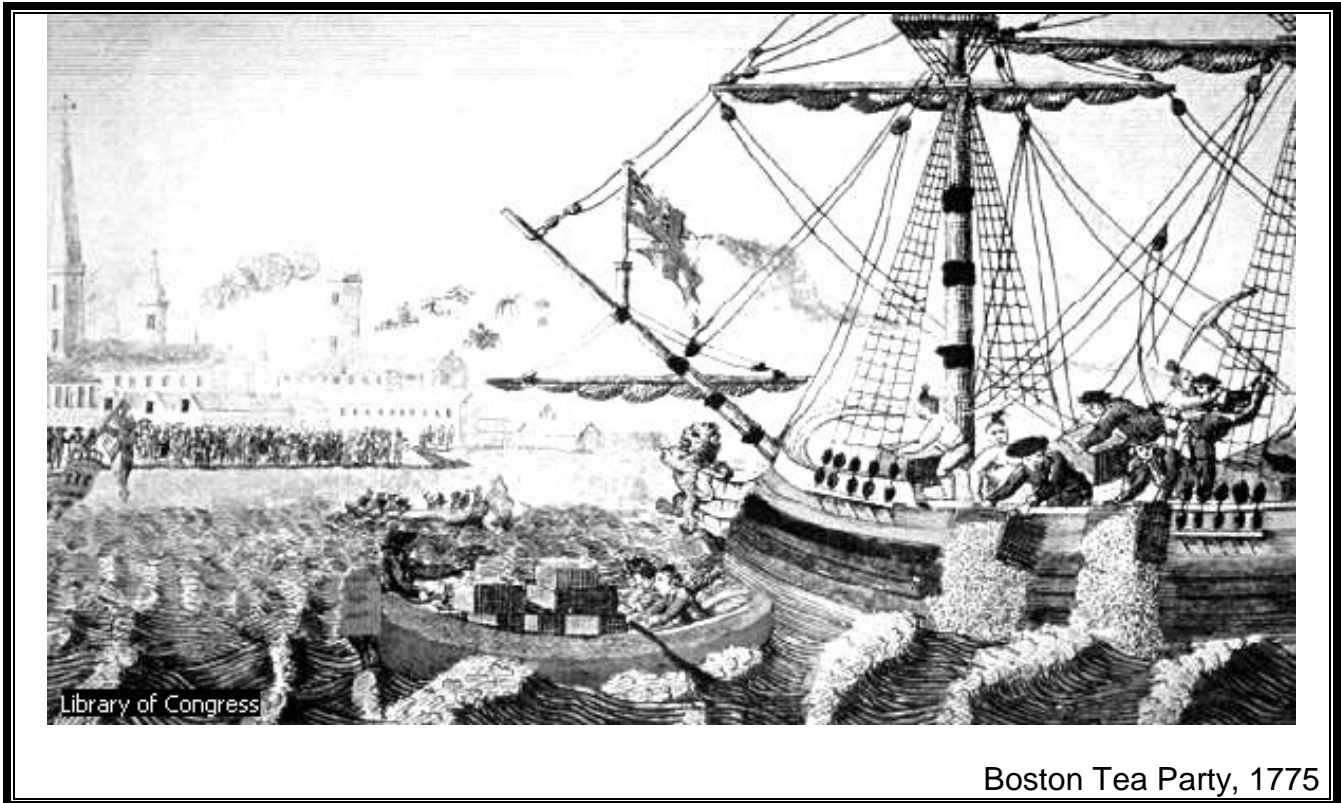
Part A Short Answer :

Examine the documents that follow closely and then answer the questions that follow. Carefully read and analyze each document. Answer each question on the separate answer sheet using evidence from the document and your knowledge of Social Studies.

Part B Essay Answer :

Answer the question in a well-organized essay that uses your answers from Part A. Use evidence from the Documents and your knowledge of Social Studies to support the ideas in your essay. You should use definitions, examples, evidence, and other specific examples to fully develop the Topic.

Document #1



- 1 A) What event is being depicted in this document? What happened at this event?
- 1 B) How did the British respond to the actions taken by the colonists in this document?

Document# 2

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just Powers from the consent of the governed.

The Declaration of Independence, Continental Congress, July 1776

2 A) According to this document, how does a government get its power?

2 B) Why did the colonists write this document?

Document# 3

"The happiness of America is intimately connected with the happiness of all mankind; she is destined to become the safe and venerable asylum of virtue, of honesty, of tolerance, and quality and of peaceful liberty."

Marquis de Lafayette, Letter to his wife, April 1777

"The moment I heard of America I loved her; the moment I knew she was fighting for freedom I burnt with a desire of bleeding for her; and the moment I shall be able to serve her, at any time, or in any part of the world, will be the happiest of my life."

Marquis de Lafayette, Letter to Henry Laurens (then President of Congress), April 1777

3 A) What feeling are shown in these letters?

3 B) How was Lafayette important to the victory of the American Colonists in the American Revolution?

Document# 4



Washington Crossing the Delaware before the Battle of Trenton, 1777

- 4 A) Why was George Washington important to the Revolution?
- 4 B) What happened at the Battle of Trenton?

Document# 5

July 7th - ...The British moved from Jamestown. ...Some idea of their design to return to the southward. Report going of a French fleet below. This news confirmed- great joy-army on the alert.

Sept. 1st - Army encamped on the bank of James river-part of French fleet, with troops on board, in view. Recrossed James river and encamped at Williamsburg. Army in high spirits-reinforcements coming on.

14th - General Washington arrived; our brigade was paraded to receive him; he rode along the line-quarters in Williamsburg.

Description of the Battle of Yorktown, "the diary of Ebenezer Denny", 1781

- 5 A) What role did the French Navy have in the Battle of Yorktown?
- 5 B) What was the outcome of the Battle of Yorktown?