

AP U.S. History – Period 3: Unit – 3 - 1754-1800 Practice Test

Question 1:

Read the passage below and answer the following question.

“The American Revolution launched an idea of popular sovereignty that, together with the cost of the war, helped to provoke the downfall of the French monarchy. The French Revolution, dramatic as was its influence on the Old World, also became a fundamental event in the New World because it was eventually to challenge slavery as well as royal power.”

-Robin Blackburn, historian, “Haiti, Slavery, and the Age of the Democratic Revolution”, *William and Mary Quarterly*, 2006

Which of the following best supports the argument in the excerpt about the impact of the American Revolution?

- A. The emergence of an abolitionist movement in the United States
- B. The end of the Atlantic Slave Trade in 1808
- C. Efforts by the United States to engage in treaties with Spain and Britain
- D. Revolutions against colonial powers in the Caribbean and Latin America

Question 2:

Use the table below to answer the question.

BRITISH NATIONAL DEBT, 1739-1775 (£ Sterling)

Year	National Debt
1739	46,954,623
1748	78,293,313
1755	74,571,849
1762	146,682,844
1775	135,943,051

-Source: Sir John Sinclair, historian, *The History of the Public Revenue of the British Empire*, 1966

Which of the following was a significant cause of the trend from 1755-1762 shown in the table?

- A. costs of increased colonization of the West Indies
- B. costs of increased demand for enslaved people in the British sugar islands
- C. costs of involvement in the Seven Years' War with France
- D. costs of involvement in colonial conflicts with indigenous nations

Question 3:

“There is a violent spirit of opposition. . . against the execution of the Stamp Act, the mob in Boston have carried it very high against Mr. Oliver the Secry (a Town born child) for his acceptance of an office in consequence of that act. They have even proceeded to some violence, and burnt him in Effigy &c. They threaten to pull down & burn the Stamp Office now building, and that they will hold every man as Infamous that shall presume to carry the Stamp Act into Execution; so that it is thought Mr. Oliver will resign.”

-Archibald Hinshelwood in a letter to Joshua Mauger describing colonial reactions to Andrew Oliver, a royal stamp tax collector, 1765

Which of the following explains why Britain instituted new taxes like the Stamp Act?

- A. to pay off British debt after the Seven Years' War
- B. to fund improvement projects in the colonies, like paved roads
- C. to increase control of the colonies after growing independence movements
- D. to punish the colonies after supporting the French in the Seven Years' War

Question 4:

“My country men, I know from their form of government and steady attachment heretofore to royalty, will come reluctantly into the idea of independency, but time and persecution brings many wonderful things to pass, and by private letters which I have lately received from Virginia, I find *Common Sense* is working a powerful change there in the minds of many men.”

-Source: George Washington, in a letter to Joseph Reed, 1776

Washington's remarks in the excerpt most directly reflected which of the following developments during the late eighteenth century?

- A. the impact of the Great Awakening on religious practices in the colonies
- B. the influence of the consumer revolution on the spread of ideas from Britain

- C. the rise in support within the colonies for a republican form of government
- D. the debates within the colonies over expansion past the Appalachian Mountains

Question 5:

“They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger. . . The millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. . . . The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable--and let it come! I repeat it, sir, let it come.”

-Patrick Henry, “Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death,” 1775

Henry most likely wrote his account for which of the following reasons?

- A. to advocate for the end of slavery and the release of enslaved people of African descent
- B. to persuade Patriot rebels to lay down their weapons and surrender
- C. to influence colonial separation from the British and start the American Revolution
- D. to encourage the Continental Congress to find a diplomatic solution to the conflict

Question 6:

Under the Articles of Confederation, the national government had which of the following powers?

1. The power to collect taxes
 2. The power to negotiate treaties
 3. The power to supersede state law
- A. 1 only
 - B. 2 only
 - C. 1 & 2 only
 - D. 1, 2, & 3

Question 7:

"We found ourselves rather pressed, the Ohio Company appeared to purchase a large tract of the federal lands, about 6 or 7 million of acres— ;and we wanted to abolish the old system and get a better one for the Government of the Country— ;and we finally found it necessary to adopt the best system we could get. . . . When I drew the ordinance which passed (in a few words excepted) as I originally formed it, I had no idea the States would agree to the sixth Art. prohibiting Slavery— ; as only [Massachusetts] of the Eastern States was present—; and therefore omitted it in the draft—; but finding the House favourably disposed on this subject, after we had completed the other parts I moved the art—; which was agreed to without opposition."

-Source: Nathan Dane, in a letter to Rufus King after the passage of the Northwest Ordinance of 1787, 1787

Which of the following developments in the 1790s best represented the continuation of the ideas expressed in the passage?

- A. support for a stronger central government to replace the Articles of Confederation
- B. support for the idea of Republican Motherhood as a woman's role
- C. support for neutrality during conflicts between the French and the British
- D. support for abolition movements in the North to prohibit slavery

Question 8:

"It may be a reflection on human nature, that such devices should be necessary to control the abuses of government. But what is government itself, but the greatest of all reflections on human nature? If men were angels, no government would be necessary. If angels were to govern men, neither external nor internal controls on government would be necessary. In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men, the great difficulty lies in this: you must first enable the government to control the governed; and in the next place oblige it to control itself."

-Source: *The Federalist Papers*, No. 51, 1788

Which of the Founders would be most likely to disagree with Madison's statements in the excerpt above?

- A. Alexander Hamilton
- B. John Jay
- C. George Washington
- D. Patrick Henry

Question 9:

The Stamp Act Congress of 1765 was historically significant in that it

- A. represented a 1st step in colonial unity against Britain
- B. represented New England's determination to go to war against England
- C. demonstrated Parliament's determination to tax its American colonies
- D. demonstrated the colonists' political & philosophical disagreement among themselves

Question 10:

In a single republic, all the power surrendered by the people is submitted to the administration of a single government; and the usurpations are guarded against by a division of the government into distinct and separate departments. In the compound republic of America, the power surrendered by the people is first divided between two distinct governments, and then the portion allotted to each subdivided among distinct and separate departments. Hence a double security arises to the rights of the people. The different governments will control each other, at the same time that each will be controlled by itself.”

-Source: Publius (James Madison), *The Federalist Papers*, no. 51, 1788

Which of the following best summarizes the author’s argument?

- A. The state governments should not exist as they reduce the power of the federal government
- B. The federal government should have more power over state governments
- C. The state governments should have more power over the federal government.
- D. The federal government and state governments should have their power checked by each other.

Question 11:

“It has been much urged that a bank will give great convenience in the collection of taxes . . . yet the Constitution allows only the means which are ‘necessary,’ not those which are merely ‘convenient’ . . . there is not one [power] which ingenuity may torture into convenience, in some instance or other, to someone so long a list of enumerated powers. It would swallow up all the delegated powers, and reduce the whole to one power Therefore it was that the Constitution restrained them to the necessary means; that is to say, to those means without which the grant of the power would be nugatory (useless).”

-Source: Thomas Jefferson on the National Bank, 1791

Which of the following Framers of the Constitution would have been most likely to disagree with Jefferson’s views, as expressed in this excerpt?

- A. Patrick Henry
- B. George Mason
- C. Alexander Hamilton
- D. James Madison

Question 12:

“Could these colonists who had been British and who had celebrated their Britishness for generations become a truly independent people? How could one united people descended from the same ancestors, speaking the same language, and professing the same Protestant religion differentiate themselves from the people of the former mother country? These questions, more than any others, bedeviled the politics of the early decades of the new Republic’s history.”

-Source: Gordon S. Wood, *Empire of Liberty: A History of the Early Republic, 1789-1815*, 2009

Which of the following statements is most consistent with the author’s argument in this passage?

- A. Americans sought to adopt aspects of local Indigenous cultures
- B. Americans sought to create a culture that was based off Ancient Greece
- C. Americans sought to adopt aspects of British and French culture
- D. Americans sought to create a culture that was distinct from British culture

Question 13:

Thomas Jefferson relied on the ideas of John Locke in writing the American Declaration of Independence in all of the following ways EXCEPT Locke's belief

- A. man is born free & equal
- B. man must submit to the General Will to protect his natural rights
- C. governments get their authority from the people, not God
- D. the purpose of government is to protect man's natural rights

Question 14:

The Age of Salutary Neglect drew to a close with

- A. the Boston Tea Party
- B. the formation of the Republic of Texas
- C. the Salem Witch Trials
- D. the end of the French & Indian War

Question 15:

Historians often cite Shay's Rebellion (1786-1787) as a significant event in U.S. history because it

- A. demonstrated the strength, yet fairness, of the newly created federal government
- B. made many Americans realize that slavery could not last
- C. made Americans realize that excessive taxation often leads to violence
- D. demonstrated the weakness of the federal government under the Articles of Confederation

Question 16:

George Washington established the principle of executive privilege in a dispute with Congress over the

- A. Alien & Sedition Acts
- B. legality of political parties
- C. Jay's Treaty
- D. Whiskey Rebellion

Question 17:

Which of the following best summarizes the strict constructionist position on the establishment of the National Bank?

- A. All matters not clearly reconciled by the Constitution, such as the establishment of a national bank, must be arbitrated by the federal judiciary
- B. The establishment of the National Bank is necessary to strengthen the U.S. economy & therefore must be allowed even if it's technically unconstitutional
- C. The decision on whether to establish a National Bank, like all important governmental decisions, should be left in the hands of a powerful executive branch
- D. The Constitution forbids the establishment of the bank because creating a bank is not among Congress's enumerated powers

Question 18:



-Source: R.F. Zogbaum, *The Battle of Fallen Timbers*, *Harper's Magazine*, 1896

Which of the following most directly led to the circumstances illustrated by the image?

- A. decreased efforts by white settlers to expand westward into Indigenous lands for fear of military conflict
- B. decreased efforts by the United States to protect white settlers from conflict with Indigenous nations
- C. increased efforts by Indigenous nations to gain sovereignty in the American government
- D. increased efforts by Indigenous nations to limit migration of white settlers

Question 19:

All of the following were immediate social or economic consequences of the American Revolution EXCEPT

- A. increased opportunities for land settlement in the West
- B. reform of primogeniture inheritance laws
- C. expanded rights for women to hold property
- D. the opening of many areas of trade & manufacture

Answer Key:

1. D
2. C
3. A
4. C
5. C
6. B
7. D
8. D
9. A
10. D
11. C
12. D
13. B
14. D
15. D
16. C
17. D
18. D
19. C