

Correction of the Exam Paper : Civilisation Americaine / 2021 – 2022

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- 1) The first inhabitants of America were the **indigenous peoples**, also known as **Native Americans or First Nations**.
- 2) The Mayflower Compact was a foundational democratic agreement created and signed by the Pilgrims aboard the Mayflower ship on **November 11, 1620**.
- 3) The Bible was translated into the Massachusetts language by **John Eliot**, an English Puritan missionary, in the 17th century.
- 4) The Stamp Act of 1765 was enacted by the British Parliament with **the primary goal of raising revenue from the American colonies to support British military operations and colonial defense following the Seven Years' War**. The act imposed direct taxes on a wide range of printed materials in the colonies, requiring these materials to bear a revenue stamp. However, this imposition of taxation without colonial representation led to widespread opposition and protests among the American colonists, sparking significant tensions that ultimately contributed to the onset of the American Revolution.
- 5) The Treaty of Paris, which marked the official end of the American Revolutionary War, was signed on **September 3, 1783**. The treaty was signed in Paris, France, by representatives of King George III of Great Britain and representatives of the United States of America. The treaty recognized the independence of the United States and outlined the terms of peace between the two nations.
- 6) The four Coercive Acts, also known as the Intolerable Acts in the American colonies, were a series of punitive measures imposed by the British Parliament in 1774 in response to the Boston Tea Party and other acts of colonial defiance. The four main Coercive Acts were:

- Boston Port Act: This act closed the port of Boston until the East India Company was repaid for the destroyed tea during the Boston Tea Party.

-Massachusetts Government Act: This act altered the colonial charter of Massachusetts, significantly reducing the colony's ability to govern itself and limiting town meetings.

-Administration of Justice Act: This act allowed the royal governor to send colonial officials to other colonies or to Great Britain for trial if they were accused of committing capital offenses while suppressing colonial unrest.

-Quartering Act: This act required colonists to provide housing and provisions for British soldiers stationed in the colonies, often without the consent of the local assemblies.

These Coercive Acts were intended to assert British authority over the colonies and to punish the Massachusetts colonists for their resistance to British policies, but they ultimately fueled further resentment and resistance, contributing to the outbreak of the American Revolutionary War.

- 7) The First Continental Congress took place **from September 5 to October 26, 1774, at Carpenters' Hall in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.** It was a convention of delegates from twelve of the thirteen North American colonies that met to respond to the Coercive Acts, which the British Parliament had imposed on Massachusetts in the wake of the Boston Tea Party. The delegates discussed their grievances against the British government and debated potential courses of action, marking a significant step toward colonial unity and resistance against British oppression.
- 8) The Articles of Confederation, the first constitution of the United States, consisted of **13 articles**. These articles were drafted by the Continental Congress and were ratified in 1781. The Articles of Confederation served as the governing document of the United States from 1781 to 1789, prior to the adoption of the current United States Constitution. It established a framework for the functioning of the national government, emphasizing the sovereignty of the individual states while outlining the powers and limitations of the central government. However, due to its weaknesses, the Articles of Confederation were eventually replaced by the Constitution, which established a stronger federal government better equipped to handle the challenges facing the young nation.
- 9) The sentence from the Declaration of Independence reads: **"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."

- 10) Two forms of expression of democracy in history are direct democracy and representative democracy:

- **Direct Democracy:** In this form of democracy, citizens participate directly in decision-making processes, often through assemblies or mass meetings. Ancient Athens is a notable historical example of direct democracy, where male citizens actively participated in the governance of the city-state, voting on laws and policies.

- **Representative Democracy:** Representative democracy involves the election of individuals to represent the interests and views of the people in decision-making processes. These elected representatives then make laws and policies on behalf of the citizens. Modern democratic systems, such as those found in many countries today, including the United States, the United Kingdom, and France, are examples of representative democracies.