

2024



AP® United States History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Short-Answer Question 3

- Scoring Guidelines**
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Question 3: Short Answer No Stimulus**3 points****General Scoring Notes**

- Each point is earned independently.
- **Accuracy:** These scoring guidelines require that students demonstrate historically defensible content knowledge. Given the timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.
- **Clarity:** Exam responses should be considered first drafts and thus may contain grammatical errors. Those errors will not be counted against a student unless they obscure the successful demonstration of the content knowledge, skills, and practices described below.
- **Describe:** Provide the relevant characteristics of a specified topic. Description requires more than simply mentioning an isolated term.
- **Explain:** Provide information about how or why a historical development or process occurs or how or why a relationship exists.

[a] Briefly describe one British government policy enacted in colonial North America from 1763 to 1776. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- The British government enacted new taxes to raise revenue.
- The British government collected taxes without colonial representation in Parliament.
- The British government established the Proclamation Line to reduce tensions with Native Americans by preventing settlers from moving westward.
- British officials blockaded American ports to assert imperial authority over the colonies.

[b] Briefly explain one similarity OR difference in how TWO groups in North America responded to a British policy from 1763 to 1783. **1 point**

Examples that earn this point include the following:

- While loyalists sought to remain loyal to the crown, Patriots argued that colonists should fight for their liberties.
- Native Americans supported the Royal Proclamation of 1763 preventing colonial encroachment, while the colonists defied the Proclamation of 1763 moving west.
- The Sons and Daughters of Liberty both protested policies through supporting boycotts on British imported goods.
- During the Revolutionary War some Native American nations, such as the Kanien'kehà:ka [Mohawk] allied with the British, while other nations, such as the Oneida Nation, allied with the colonists.
- Northern merchants and Southern plantation owners opposed the imposition of taxes on trade in the colonies.

- Puritans in New England disliked the Quebec Act because it tolerated Catholicism, while southern planters disliked the Quebec Act because it prevented settlement on land that they claimed.
- Merchants in New England responded to the Stamp Act by boycotting British goods, but merchants in the Caribbean did not boycott goods and remained loyal to the British government.

[c]	Briefly explain how one specific historical development contributed to the American colonists' victory over Great Britain from 1775 to 1783.	1 point
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Examples that earn this point include the following:

- Assistance from European allies helped the Patriots overcome the British advantage and win the war.
- The actions of colonial militias helped overcome Great Britain's overwhelming military and financial advantage and contributed to the colonist victory over Great Britain.
- Colonial women provided important material and financial support to the Patriot cause.
- George Washington led the Continental Army and his military leadership helped to defeat the British.
- The colonists' ideological commitment and resilience helped the Patriots overcome the British advantage and win the war.

Total for question 3 3 points

Important: After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3 Question 4

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box. Do not skip lines.

- a) Following the Seven Years War, ~~the British army~~ the British government faced debt, expecting the colonies to help relieve this debt. As a result, they enacted several policies, a major one being the Stamp Act. This act required a tax on all printed papers, such as marriage certificates, newspapers, and more, inciting great opposition by the colonists.
- b) Many groups erupted as a result of the Tea Act, particularly the Sons of Liberty led by Sam Adams and the loyalists. These specific groups were practically complete opposites, as the Sons of Liberty called for radical action against the British while the loyalists believed the British were right in enacting the Tea Act / other policies. Specifically, the Sons of Liberty orchestrated the Boston Tea Party, directly opposing the Tea Act by dumping it into the harbor, while loyalists upheld the rights of Britain to tax.
- c) Following the ^{victory of the} battle of Saratoga, Benjamin Franklin was able to convince France of their sovereignty as an independent nation, a major deciding force who helped the Americans win the battle at Yorktown, a decisive victory that led to the surrender of Britain. Without the battle of Saratoga proving our worth to the French (as we won it), we wouldn't have the French's major help in assisting us to victory over Great Britain.

End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4

Use a pen with black or dark blue ink only. Do NOT write your name. Do NOT write outside the box.

Important: After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3 Question 4

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.
Do not skip lines.

- A) One British government policy enacted in colonial North America from 1763 to 1776 was the Stamp Act. The stamp Act put a stamp tax on all printed documents ~~this policy~~ in the colonies. ~~this~~ policy taxed the colonists ~~as~~ after debt from the 7 years war.
- B) One similarity in how two groups in North America responded to a British policy from 1763 to 1773 was the Sons and Daughters of Liberty and Stamp Act Congress' response to the Stamp Act. The Sons and daughters of Liberty retaliated the Stamp Act with violence and public humiliation of British officers. The stamp Act Congress declared that only elected representatives can tax the colonies. Both groups rejected and retaliated against the British policy of the Stamp Act.
- C) One specific historical development that contributed to the American Colonists victory over Great Britain from 1775 to 1783 was the enthusiastic and enraged colonists. After continued taxation like the Coercive Acts that infringed upon colonists rights, colonists ~~were~~ wanted independence. This fighting spirit contributed to their victory over Great Britain in the American Revolution.

End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4

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Important: After you have completed your response to either Question 3 or Question 4, completely fill in the circle that corresponds to the question you answered.

Question 3 **Question 4**

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 3 or 4 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.
Do not skip lines.

A important British policy during 1763 to 1776 was the stamp act. The stamp act was a policy enforced by British government that all papers had to be stamped with a stamp by the British. The British also taxed the colonics on goods like tea. North American groups were both pretty upset by this and thought it was unfair so a group of people dressed up as natives and threw British tea into the Boston harbor. Many battles by the British and American colonies contributed to the war effort and the success by the colonies.

End of response area for Question 3 or Question 4

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Short Answer Question 3

Note: Student samples are quoted verbatim and may contain spelling and grammatical errors.

Overview

- Responses were expected to describe one British government policy that was enacted in North America from 1763 to 1776.
- Responses were expected to explain one similarity or difference between two groups in North America in how they responded to British policy between 1763 to 1783.
- Responses were expected to explain one historical development that contributed to the American colonists' victory over Great Britain from 1775 to 1783.
- The questions primarily addressed Topics 3.3, 3.4, 3.5, and 3.6.

Sample: 3A

Score: 3

The response to (a) earned 1 point by describing how the British implemented the Stamp Act after the Seven Years' War, which required a tax on many printed papers to raise revenue to help pay debt incurred during the war.

The response to (b) earned 1 point by explaining the difference between how the Sons of Liberty and loyalists responded to the Tea Act. The response explains that the Sons of Liberty sought to take "radical action against" Great Britain's policy, while loyalists' recognized the right of Britain to enact such a law.

The response to (c) earned 1 point by explaining how the French alliance with the United States after the Battle of Saratoga helped the United States to win its independence.

Sample Identifier: 3B

Score: 2

The response to (a) earned 1 point by describing how the British government implemented the Stamp Act, which required a tax on printed documents to raise revenue to help pay debt incurred during the Seven Years' War.

The response to (b) earned 1 point by explaining the similarity between the response of the Sons and Daughters of Liberty and the Stamp Act Congress to the Stamp Act. The response explains that both groups resisted the implementation of the Stamp Act and retaliated against the British policy.

The response to (c) did not earn a point because it does not explain a specific historical development within the time period of 1775 to 1783 that contributed to the colonial victory over Great Britain. The response tries to use the unification of the colonists due to events before 1775 to explain how the colonists' ideological commitment and resilience led to victory over Great Britain. However, the response does not adequately explain the "fighting spirit" that contributed to this victory.

Short Answer Question 3 (continued)

Sample Identifier: 3C

Score: 1

The response to (a) earned 1 point by describing the British government's enactment of the Stamp Act to tax all paper goods and the tax on tea.

The response to (b) did not earn a point because it does not explain a similarity or difference in how two groups responded to a British policy from 1763 to 1783. The discussion of the participants in the Boston Tea Party only provides one group for the explanation.

The response to (c) did not earn a point because it does not explain a specific historical development that contributed to the American colonists' victory over Great Britain within the time period of the prompt. Rather, it only refers generically to "many battles."