

**2023**

**AP®**



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# **AP® United States History**

## **Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 2**

### **Inside:**

#### **Short-Answer Question 1**

- Scoring Guidelines**
- Student Samples**
- Scoring Commentary**

**Question 1: Short Answer Secondary Source****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timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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 major difference between Gordon-Reed's and Breen's interpretations of the American Revolution. **1 point**

**Examples that earn this point include the following:**

- Gordon-Reed mainly looks at the impact of the Revolution on African Americans, but Breen focuses on ordinary colonists without power.
- Gordon-Reed argues that the Revolution did not live up to its perceived goals for African Americans, whereas Breen argues that the Revolution resulted in significant social change.
- Breen argues that the American Revolution resulted in many people actually having new opportunities to improve their situation, while Gordon-Reed argues that enslaved African Americans hoped that talk of liberty would spread during the Revolution.

- (B)** Briefly explain how one specific event or development from 1763 to 1800 not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Gordon-Reed's interpretation. **1 point**

**Examples that earn this point include the following:**

- Gordon-Reed's argument about African Americans' hope that talk of liberty would spread is evident in calls for abolition during and after the American Revolution.
- The Declaration of Independence inspired many African Americans in northern states to petition state governments for freedom.
- The contradiction between revolutionaries' calls for freedom and the existence of slavery led to the formation of antislavery organizations such as the Pennsylvania Abolition Society.

**Examples that earn this point might include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:**

- Negotiations related to the three-fifths clause
- Constitutional provision to allow the abolition of the international slave trade
- Growing regional divide over slavery

- Passage of Northwest Ordinance
- African Americans fighting in the Revolution

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(C) Briefly explain how one specific event or development from 1763 to 1800 not explicitly mentioned in the excerpts could be used to support Breen’s interpretation. **1 point**

**Examples that earn this point include the following:**

- The Patriot cause was supported by laborers and colonial leaders through various protests, which supports Breen’s argument that the Revolution contributed to greater opportunity.
- The Declaration of Independence challenged the status quo by asserting the political rights of citizens, which inspired many to support the Patriot cause and the creation of the United States.

**Examples that earn this point might include the following, if appropriate elaboration is provided:**

- The development of republican motherhood
- The ideas in Thomas Paine’s *Common Sense*
- Participation in political parties
- Bill of Rights
- Federalist and Anti-Federalist debates
- Various political activities, such as protests, boycotts, and resistance to taxes

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**Total for question 1 3 points**

Write your answer to SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1 on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.  
Do not skip lines.

- a) One difference between Gordon-Reed's & Breen's interpretations of the American Revolution was the effect on those excluded. In Gordon-Reed's, he emphasizes the feelings of the enslaved African-Americans and their hope & yearning for more freedom b/c of similarities in the Revolution. However, Breen interpreted that it actually resulted in increased opportunities for those who previously lacked - he emphasized <sup>the rise of revolution</sup> effect on poor white males while Gordon-Reed focused on slaves.
- b) One development not mentioned was how slaves also fought for British. <sup>what gave freedom</sup> Because they had been so repressed, when the British offered them their freedom in exchange for military assistance, the slaves took it. The British saw now restricted the slaves were & when they saw discontent & rioting in how colonies repressed them, they took the resource. Some, on flip side, stayed w/America b/c thought they'd gain rights - did what best.
- c) One specific event/development that supports Breen's interpretation is the mass protesting. As people grew opposed to the British rule, they found their voices - such as in no taxation w/out representation - and truly found revolutionary fervor - such as those who engaged in the Sons & Daughters of Liberty. ~~they~~ <sup>give</sup> The Sons & Daughters of Liberty ~~were~~ <sup>gave</sup> people opportunity to have their viewpoints heard & gave rise to rebellions & increased passion for war.

End of response area for Q1

0430971



Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1** on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.  
Do not skip lines.

Gordon Reed's interpretation of the American Revolution involves the observation that enslaved African Americans saw the increased attention on freedom and liberty as an opportunity to potentially gain their own freedom. Alternatively, Breen's interpretation discusses how the American Revolution empowered and provided opportunities for local white men who were not merchants or wealthy slave owners.

When enslaved African Americans saw the hypocrisy in free white men claiming to be enslaved by their mother country, this ~~hypocrisy~~ was one of the many reasons for anger behind numerous slave revolts. One notable revolt was Nat Turner's Rebellion, where African American enslaved people revolted against white slave owners and protested <sup>for</sup> their freedom.

Thomas Paine's Common Sense pamphlet encouraged American white men to support the Revolutionary War effort and empower them to fight in the war. Common Sense explained the threat of British rule and urged all Americans to contribute to politics and fight for their independence.

End of response area for Q1

0315989



Write your answer to **SHORT-ANSWER QUESTION 1** on this page only. Do NOT write outside the box.  
Do not skip lines.

A.) A difference between Gordon-Reed's and Breen's interpretation of the American Revolution is Gordon-Reed believes that American white colonists were afraid of becoming slaves to England that they disregarded the real slavery around them; while, Breen believes the American Revolution led large groups of people who used to be excluded from politics to speak forward and shape what happens in the country. ~~Breen~~ Breen believes the American Revolution gave freedom to all "oppressed" while Gordon-Reed recognizes the blindness of the colonists towards African-American slavery.

B.) ~~The treatment of slaves in the South could support the Missouri Compromise since the government and people~~

The treatment of slaves in the South supports Gordon-Reed's interpretation since they had to work in horrible conditions, being sold, whipped, not being treated as a person while white men were getting more rights - like being able to vote without property.

C.) The Constitution supports Breen's interpretation since it states "all men have natural rights" and "all men are created equal" which leads to more open government, more voting, and more freedoms.

End of response area for Q1

0393673



## Short Answer Question 1

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

### Overview

- This question asked students to describe the difference between two excerpts from secondary source texts about the effects of the American Revolution on different populations in society. The first excerpt by Annette Gordon-Reed argues that enslaved African Americans found hope in the ideals of the American Revolution that they would gain freedom. Reed also pointed out the irony of the language of the Revolution. Colonists used metaphors of enslavement and freedom while African Americans were actually enslaved. The second excerpt by T. H. Breen argues that colonists gained opportunities and participated in politics in ways that they did not prior to the Revolution.
- Students had to understand the fundamental differences between the two authors' arguments, use evidence not found in the excerpts between 1763–1800 to support Gordon-Reed's argument, and then use evidence not found in the excerpts between 1763–1800 to support Breen's argument.
- This question focused on analyzing historical evidence and secondary sources.
- This question primarily addressed Topics 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3, 6.2, and 6.3.

### Sample: 1A

### Score: 3

The response to part (a) earned 1 point because it provides an accurate description of Gordon-Reed's interpretation that African Americans hoped the Revolutionary War would provide more freedom. Breen's interpretation of increased opportunity for White men is also described accurately.

The response to part (b) earned 1 point because enslaved African Americans fighting for the British in return for their freedom is a specific development that supports Gordon-Reed's interpretation. The response also mentions the ironic language of freedom used by colonists while ignoring enslaved peoples.

The response to part (c) earned 1 point because there is clear information on protests against taxation without representation by the average colonists that supports Breen's interpretation. The Sons and Daughters of Liberty are also presented as providing colonists with new opportunities to participate and connect with politics during the Revolutionary War.

### **Short Answer Question 1 (continued)**

**Sample: 1B**

**Score: 2**

The response to part (a) earned 1 point because it provides a clear and accurate difference between Gordon-Reed and Breen's interpretations of the American Revolution. Gordon-Reed's interpretation that African Americans saw an opportunity in the Revolutionary War language to gain their freedom and Breen's argument about local men who were empowered and given new opportunities are both explained correctly.

The response to part (b) did not earn a point because while the hypocrisy of the language of the Revolution was briefly addressed, Nat Turner's Rebellion is out of the time period of the prompt.

The response to part (c) earned 1 point because Thomas Paine's *Common Sense* is an effective example supporting Breen's interpretation. The response clearly explains how *Common Sense* supports Breen's argument of increased political involvement and opportunity.

**Sample: 1C**

**Score: 1**

The response to part (a) earned 1 point because it provides a brief example of the difference between Gordon-Reed and Breen's interpretations of the American Revolution. The mention of colonists ignoring the enslavement of African Americans while concerned about their oppression from the British just meets the threshold for Gordon-Reed's interpretation, while the mention of colonists participating in politics for the first time supports Breen's interpretation.

The response to part (b) did not earn a point because the general description of the treatment of enslaved African Americans does not provide a connection to Gordon-Reed's main arguments and does not identify a specific development from the time period.

The response to part (c) did not earn a point because while there is mention of the Constitution, the response confuses it with the Declaration of Independence and contains incorrect information about voting and freedoms from that time period.