



YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS

US History and Government
Regents Review

The Declaration of Independence

The Declaration of Independence

The PURPOSE of the Declaration:	The Declaration's KEY IDEAS OF GOVERNMENT:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To announce to the world that the colonies were now a new, independent nation • To explain and justify the reasons that the united colonies had decided to become the United States of America 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have natural rights, including the rights to "Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness." • Governments receive their power to govern "from the consent of the governed" by social contract or compact in which the government agrees to protect the people's natural rights. • When a government fails to protect and respect those rights, it is the "Right of the People to alter or to abolish" that government.
The THREE PARTS of the Declaration:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A theory of government • A list of grievances against the King • A formal resolution declaring independence 	

The Ideals of the Declaration of Independence

The ideals of the Declaration of Independence are still goals for the nation. They have also served to inspire others—during the French Revolution of the late 1700s, the South American independence movement in the early 1800s, and even twentieth-century independence movements in Africa and Asia.

Although few people noted it at the time, there was a fundamental contradiction between the Declaration's ideals of freedom and the institution of slavery. The colonists had looked to John Locke's compact theory (which stated that no person may rule another without the consent of the other person) as justification for choosing freedom. Few, however, advocated such freedom for slaves.

Name: _____

- 1) Which document is *best* described as a statement of democratic principles rather than a framework for government?
 - 1) United States Constitution
 - 2) Albany Plan of Union
 - 3) Declaration of Independence
 - 4) Articles of Confederation
 - 2) John Locke's theory of the social contract, as developed in the United States Declaration of Independence, stated that
 - 1) legislatures should have more power than kings
 - 2) monarchs could rule autocratically, but they had to grant certain rights to their subjects
 - 3) government should guarantee equal economic conditions to all people
 - 4) the people should revolt against a government that did not protect their rights
 - 3) The Declaration of Independence contributed to the political development of the United States by
 - 1) demonstrating the need for a strong chief executive
 - 2) providing the nation with a strong bill of rights
 - 3) condemning the practice of slavery
 - 4) presenting a clear statement of the social contract theory of government
 - 4) Which principle of government is proposed in the Declaration of Independence?
 - 1) Political power originates with a strong central government.
 - 2) The primary function of government is to protect natural rights.
 - 3) Individual liberties must be guaranteed by a strong bill of rights.
 - 4) A system of checks and balances is the most effective way to prevent governmental abuse of power.
 - 5) The primary purpose of the Declaration of Independence was to
 - 1) demand freedom of speech and of the press
 - 2) strengthen colonial ties with England
 - 3) establish a basic set of laws for the United States
 - 4) state the reasons for the American Revolution
 - 6) The Declaration of Independence was based on the ideas of the
 - 1) Romantic Era
 - 2) Enlightenment
 - 3) Age of Exploration
 - 4) Renaissance
 - 7) In writing the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson was most influenced by the writers of the
 - 1) Renaissance
 - 2) Middle Ages
 - 3) Enlightenment
 - 4) Romantic Era
 - 8) "That to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed."

This statement from the Declaration of Independence indicates that government has a responsibility to

 - 1) control the lives of citizens
 - 2) provide for the defense of the nation
 - 3) respond to the will of the people
 - 4) promote economic development
 - 9) The Declaration of Independence contributed to the development of democracy by
 - 1) guaranteeing trial by jury to all men
 - 2) allowing women to take part in government
 - 3) *indicating that people are the source of power*
 - 4) providing for Presidential elections every four years
 - 10) According to the Declaration of Independence, governments are established to
 - 1) protect the nation from invasion
 - 2) provide a system of checks and balances
 - 3) guarantee voting rights for all citizens
 - 4) protect the natural rights of citizens
- Questions 11 and 12 refer to the following:
- "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."

- 11) This quotation reflects beliefs mainly derived from
- 1) the divine right monarchs of Europe
 - 2) John Locke's theory of natural rights
 - 3) the Magna Carta
 - 4) Marxist philosophy
- 12) This quotation is evidence that some of the basic ideas in the Declaration of Independence were
- 1) reflections of the philosophies of the European Enlightenment
 - 2) adaptations of the laws of Spanish colonial governments in North America
 - 3) adoptions of rules used by the Holy Roman Empire
 - 4) imitations of the principles underlying most European governments of the 1700's
- 13) The primary purpose of the United States Declaration of Independence is to
- 1) guarantee human rights for all Americans
 - 2) provide a clear plan for a meaningful and effective political system
 - 3) explain and justify why the American colonists revolted against their mother country
 - 4) establish the basic law of the land in the United States
- 14) A major purpose of the Declaration of Independence was to
- 1) strengthen the power of the central government
 - 2) state colonial grievances against British rule
 - 3) establish a plan for a national government
 - 4) guarantee individual rights to citizens
- 15) The major purpose of the Declaration of Independence was to
- 1) provide for the establishment of new state governments
 - 2) provide a plan of organization for a new government
 - 3) justify the actions of people seeking to overthrow British colonial rule
 - 4) describe a strategy for the defeat of the British in the Revolutionary War
- 16) The Declaration of Independence states that the fundamental purpose of government is to
- 1) secure for the people their natural rights
 - 2) provide for the common defense
 - 3) assure employment for people who are willing to work
 - 4) guarantee the right to vote to all citizens
- 17) According to the Declaration of Independence, the purpose of government is to
- 1) establish separation of church and state
 - 2) provide for the defense of the country
 - 3) secure natural rights for the people
 - 4) encourage economic expansion
- 18) In writing the Declaration of Independence, Thomas Jefferson based his argument for American independence on the idea that
- 1) monarchy was evil by nature
 - 2) the British refused to import colonial raw materials
 - 3) people have natural rights as human beings
 - 4) Britain was too far away to rule the Colonies effectively
- 19) According to the Declaration of Independence, the people have the right to alter or abolish a government if that government
- 1) becomes involved in entangling alliances
 - 2) favors one religion over another
 - 3) violates natural rights
 - 4) is a limited monarchy
- 20) Which statement most closely expresses the justification for revolution as presented in the United States Declaration of Independence?
- 1) People are born free but everywhere they are in chains; therefore, revolution is necessary to return their freedom.
 - 2) People have the right to overthrow their government if it fails to protect their rights and property.
 - 3) Government authority prevents human progress; revolution will end all government control.
 - 4) Economic conditions determine the course of history; therefore, revolutionary struggle between classes is inevitable.

- 21) According to the United States Declaration of Independence, revolution can be justified when
- 1) economic conditions worsen
 - 2) political leaders place the economic interests of a wealthy minority above those of the majority
 - 3) a government deprives the people of their basic rights
 - 4) the people realize they have elected the wrong person or party

- 22) Which fundamental political idea is expressed in the Declaration of Independence?
- 1) If the government denies its people certain basic rights, that government can be overthrown.
 - 2) The government should guarantee every citizen economic security.
 - 3) The central government and state governments should have equal power.
 - 4) Rulers derive their right to govern from God and are therefore bound to govern in the nation's best interest.

- 23) Which action can be justified by the political philosophy expressed in the Declaration of Independence?
- 1) A government passes laws to strengthen its racist policies.
 - 2) The president of a democratic country orders a crackdown on terrorists.
 - 3) A group of rebels tries to overthrow a repressive government.
 - 4) The government of a communist nation releases some political prisoners.

- 24) The idea expressed in the quotation "All just government derives its authority from the consent of the governed" is most directly found in
- 1) the Magna Carta
 - 2) the English Bill of Rights
 - 3) the United States Declaration of Independence
 - 4) Washington's Farewell Address

- 25) Which phrase from the Declaration of Independence most clearly reflects the idea that the people are the source of government?
- 1) "...that all men are created equal..."
 - 2) "...deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed..."
 - 3) "...governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes..."
 - 4) "...all men are... endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights..."

- 26) The Declaration of Independence contributed to the development of democracy in that it
- 1) allowed women to take part in government
 - 2) provided for Presidential elections every 4 years
 - 3) suggested that the people are the source of power
 - 4) guaranteed trial by jury to all men