

# American Revolution Dbq Answer Key

DBQ: Causes of the Revolutionary War

**Document 5**  
The excerpt is from "Declaration of the Causes and Necessity of Taking up Arms," issued by the Second Continental Congress on July 6, 1775. The war had broken out in April, when British forces had marched to Lexington and Concord, two villages just outside of Boston. The document, written largely by John Dickinson and Thomas Jefferson, was designed to explain and justify the fighting that had continued since April.

[The British declare] that parliament can "of right make laws to bind us in all cases whatsoever." What is to defend us against so enormous, so unlimited a power? ... We are reduced to the alternative of choosing an unconditional submission to the tyranny of enthralled [British officials], or resistance by force - The latter is our choice.

7. Why, according to this document, were the Americans justified in fighting the British?

**Document 6**  
These excerpts are from Thomas Paine's Common Sense, published in January 1776. This popular pamphlet helped to convince many Americans that the conflict with England was beyond peaceful settlement and that independence was America's only course.

Men of passive tempers lost somewhat lightly over the offences of Great Britain; and, still hoping for the best, are apt to call out, COME, COME, WE'LL HAVE BE FRIENDS AGAIN FOR ALL THIS. But ... then tell me whether you can hereafter love, respect, and submit to the power that hath carried fire and sword into your land? ... He must make a warmer soldier for a [peaceful settlement] than myself, before the fatal nineteenth of April, 1775 [the battles at Lexington and Concord, Massachusetts, occurred on this day], but the moment the event of that day was made known, I regretted the hardened, wretched creature [King of England] forever.

8. Why was Paine unwilling to be reconciled with Britain?

9. Was Paine an objective and unbiased reporter? Explain.

**Document 7**  
These excerpts are from "The Declaration of Independence," adopted by the Continental Congress of July 4, 1776.

The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations [unlawful seizures], all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. In every stage of these Oppressions we have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A Prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free people.

10. How does this document describe King George?

11. Was the Declaration an objective and unbiased statement of the American-British conflict? Explain.

**American Revolution DBQ Answer Key** refers to the document that provides guidance and insights for students analyzing documents related to the American Revolution. The Document-Based Question (DBQ) format is a common component of AP history courses, designed to evaluate students' ability to analyze historical documents and formulate coherent arguments based on evidence. This article will explore the significance of DBQs in understanding the American Revolution, the typical structure of a DBQ response, and some strategies for effectively answering DBQ prompts.

## Understanding the DBQ Format

The DBQ is an essential tool used in Advanced Placement (AP) history courses, including AP US History. The format requires students to engage with a series of primary and secondary sources to construct a well-reasoned essay that responds to a specific historical question.

## The Components of a DBQ

A typical DBQ includes:

- **Historical Context:** A brief overview of the relevant historical background that sets the stage for analyzing the documents.
- **Documents:** A collection of 5-10 documents that may include letters, speeches, legal documents, charts, or images.

- Prompt: A question that directs the analysis and requires students to formulate a thesis.

## **Significance of the American Revolution DBQ**

The American Revolution DBQ enables students to delve into the complexities of one of the most pivotal events in American history. It encourages critical thinking and analytical skills, as students must interpret various perspectives and synthesize information from multiple sources.

## **Key Themes in the American Revolution**

When approaching the American Revolution DBQ, students should consider the following themes:

1. Causes of the Revolution: Economic, political, and social factors that led to growing discontent among the colonies.
2. Key Figures: The roles of influential leaders such as George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, and Benjamin Franklin.
3. Impact of Enlightenment Ideas: The influence of Enlightenment philosophy on revolutionary thought and action.
4. The Role of Women and Minorities: Contributions of women, African Americans, and Native Americans during the revolution.
5. International Involvement: The impact of foreign alliances, particularly with France, on the outcome of the revolution.

## **Strategies for Answering the DBQ**

To effectively respond to an American Revolution DBQ, students should follow a structured approach. Here are some strategies to guide the writing process:

### **1. Analyze the Prompt**

Carefully read the prompt to understand what is being asked. Identify the key components that must be addressed in your response. Pay attention to any specific instructions, such as the need to include particular documents or perspectives.

### **2. Organize the Documents**

Before writing, take time to analyze each document. Consider the following:

- Author's Perspective: What is the author's point of view, and how might it

influence the document's content?

- Historical Context: What background information is necessary to understand the document's significance?

- Connections Between Documents: How do the documents relate to one another? Do they support or contradict each other?

### **3. Develop a Strong Thesis Statement**

Your thesis should present a clear argument that addresses the prompt. It should be specific and take a definitive stance. A strong thesis serves as the backbone of your essay, guiding the direction of your analysis.

### **4. Construct a Clear Outline**

An outline helps organize your thoughts and ensures that you address all aspects of the prompt. A typical structure might include:

- Introduction: Introduce the topic and present your thesis statement.
- Body Paragraphs: Each paragraph should focus on a specific aspect of the prompt, integrating evidence from the documents. Use the following structure for each paragraph:
  - Topic sentence
  - Evidence from the documents
  - Analysis of the evidence
- Conclusion: Summarize your main points and restate the significance of your argument.

### **5. Write the Essay**

With your outline in hand, begin writing your essay. Be sure to:

- Use Evidence: Incorporate evidence from the documents to support your arguments. Quote directly from the documents where appropriate.
- Analyze, Don't Just Summarize: Focus on analyzing the significance of the documents rather than merely summarizing their contents.
- Maintain a Formal Tone: Use an academic tone throughout your essay, avoiding casual language or first-person pronouns.

### **6. Review and Revise**

Once you have completed your essay, take time to review and revise. Check for:

- Clarity: Ensure your arguments are clear and logically structured.
- Grammar and Mechanics: Proofread for grammatical errors and typos.
- Document Usage: Confirm that you have effectively utilized all relevant

documents.

## Conclusion

The **American Revolution DBQ Answer Key** plays a crucial role in helping students navigate the complexities of this formative period in American history. By understanding the DBQ format, recognizing key themes, and employing effective strategies, students can craft insightful essays that demonstrate their analytical skills and comprehension of the American Revolution. This practice not only prepares them for AP exams but also fosters a deeper appreciation for the historical events that have shaped the United States.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### What is a DBQ in the context of the American Revolution?

A DBQ, or Document-Based Question, is an essay question that requires students to analyze and interpret historical documents related to the American Revolution. It assesses their ability to construct an argument using evidence from the provided sources.

### What types of documents are typically included in an American Revolution DBQ?

Documents in an American Revolution DBQ may include primary sources such as letters, speeches, government documents, pamphlets, and excerpts from historical writings that relate to key events, figures, and themes of the revolution.

### How should students approach writing a DBQ response for the American Revolution?

Students should start by carefully reading the provided documents, identifying key themes and arguments, and then constructing a thesis statement. They should organize their response by integrating evidence from the documents while also providing outside knowledge to support their arguments.

### What are common themes explored in American Revolution DBQs?

Common themes include the causes of the revolution, the role of key figures like George Washington and Thomas Jefferson, the impact of Enlightenment



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