

AP US History 2021-22 Summer Reading

Directions: Read each document and answer all questions fully in complete sentences. Do not include quotes of more than one or two sentences. Your answers should be in your own words. Quotations should only serve to support your answers.

Your answers are due on the first day of school August 9, 2021.

Common Sense

(https://www.law.gmu.edu/assets/files/academics/founders/Paine_CommonSense.pdf)

Context

1. Who was the author of Common Sense? Briefly describe his background.
2. When did he write Common Sense?
3. What was happening in the colonies at this time?
4. Why did he write Common Sense? What inspired the author?
5. What was Thomas Paine's goal in writing Common Sense?

Introduction

1. What is Paine's main argument in the introduction regarding the King and Parliament?

On the Origins and Design of Government in General, with Concise Remarks on the English Constitution

1. What is the difference between government and society? Explain each. (69)
2. What is the origin and true design of government? (69)
3. Explain the connection between Paine's description of the creation of society and the arguments of John Locke.
4. Why does government become necessary in Paine's invented society? What type of government would the people create first? (70-71)
5. What causes an evolution in the type of government? What sort of government would replace democracy? (71)
6. What maintains the common interests of the governed and the governors? (71)
7. List and explain the two remaining tyrannical elements of the English Constitution. (72)
8. Why is a monarch inherently absurd and useless? (73)
9. How did the fate of Charles I make kings more subtle, not more just? Do you agree with Paine's argument? (74)

Of Monarchy and Hereditary Succession

1. From whence did man derive the position of king? (75-76)
2. According to Paine, why is it sinful to have a king? (76-79)
3. What is hereditary succession and what are some evils associated with it? (80-83)

Thoughts on the Present State of American Affairs

1. How does Paine describe his argument? Why? (84)
2. What is the significance of the conflict between England and the colonies? What is at stake? (85-86)
3. As America has flourished under its former connection with Great Britain, the same connection is necessary for future happiness- How does Paine argue against this thesis? (85-86)
4. Why has Great Britain defended America? (86)
5. How is Europe, not England, the parent country of America? (87)
6. What makes trade a protection of America? (88)
7. Why should America disentangle herself of foreign political connections? (89)
8. Describe the plight of the people of Boston. What has caused that plight? (90)
9. What argument does Paine make against reunification in his denunciation of cowards and sycophants? (90-91)
10. How does Paine use the Stamp Act to support his argument for independence? (92)
11. How has England's governance over America reversed the "the common order of nature?" (92)
12. Why is independence the only suitable outcome in consideration of the amount spent in the conflict with Great Britain? (93)
13. According to Paine, which event made him change his mind about reconciliation with England? (93)
14. Summarize Paine's reasons that reconciliation would lead to ruin. (94-96)
15. What form of government does Paine recommend for the colonies? Give specifics. (97)
16. Who will be the king of America? (99)
17. Paine argues that a government of our own is our natural right. Where did he get this idea? (99)
18. Do you agree with Paine's argument that monarchies always cause wars? Why or why not?

On the Present Ability of America

1. Give several reasons that Paine offers to explain why America is ready for independence.
2. What is the value of a navy and what is America's potential to construct one?
3. Why is the infancy of the colonies an argument for independence instead of against?
4. What would be the benefit of a manifesto "setting forth the miseries we have endured....declaring...we had been driven to the necessity of breaking off all connections with her?" Did the Continental Congress ever publish such a manifesto?