

NOTE: This quiz is meant to take a total of 40 minutes, 10 for short answer and 30 for essay, because the essay questions this week are challenging. If you wish, you may have your student just complete the short answer, or just write an essay.

SHORT ANSWER

10 minutes for these 10 questions (4 points each)

- After the French and Indian War ended in 1763, the British government sought to tighten its control over the colonies. The war had drained Britain's treasury and left a huge debt. Most British leaders did not expect the colonists to help pay off the debt. However, Britain planned to station troops in America to defend the colonies' western frontier. It wanted the colonists to help pay for those troops. In order to achieve this end, the Quartering Act was passed by Parliament in 1765. It ordered the colonies to supply the soldiers with living quarters, fuel, candles, and cider or beer.
- In the same year (1765), Parliament passed the Stamp Act, which required the colonists to pay for tax stamps placed on newspapers, playing cards, diplomas, and various legal documents. This was done in order to defray costs of administrating the colonies.
- What were the Townshend Acts?
Charles Townshend convinced Parliament that the colonists would find a duty or indirect tax placed on imported goods, more agreeable than the Stamp Act, which taxed them directly. In 1767, Parliament passed the Townshend Acts. One act placed duties on glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea imported into the colonies. Another act set up a customs agency in Boston to collect them efficiently.
- What was the Stamp Act Congress?
In 1765, delegates from nine colonies met in New York City and prepared a statement protesting the Stamp Act. The objections of the Stamp Act Congress stemmed from the colonists' belief that the right of taxation belonged only to the people and their elected representatives. The meeting of the Stamp Act Congress was the first united action by the colonies against an unpopular British law.
- The great war secretary of Britain, William Pitt, supported the colonists' resistance to King George by speaking against the Stamp Act.
- What was the Boston Massacre?
As Britain continued to impose more taxes and to promote a heavy military presence in Boston, friction between townspeople and British troops increased, escalating in a violent clash which resulted in the deaths of five colonists.
- What was the Boston Tea Party?
Samuel Adams, a Boston patriot, led the resistance to the Tea Act. On the evening of Dec. 16, 1773, Bostonians, disguised as Indians, raided British ships docked in Boston Harbor and dumped their cargos of tea overboard. This event became known as the Boston Tea Party.
- Britain responded to the Boston Tea Party in 1774 by passing several laws that became known in America as the Intolerable Acts. One law closed Boston Harbor until Bostonians paid for the destroyed tea. Another law restricted the activities of the Massachusetts legislature and gave added powers to the governor of Massachusetts. Those powers, in effect, made him a dictator.
- In 1773, Parliament passed the Tea Act, which enabled the East India Company to sell its tea below the price of smuggled tea. Lord North had become the king's chief minister in 1770. North believed that the colonists would buy the cheaper British tea and thereby acknowledge Parliament's right to tax them. In the process, the colonists would lose their argument against taxation without representation.
- In 1774, the First Continental Congress convened in Philadelphia with representatives of twelve colonies (all except Georgia) coming together to give a united response to Britain.

ESSAY QUESTION

30 minutes for one of these questions. (60 points)

1. Choose three of the Acts which you studied this week, and show how each of them undermined the colonists' rights. What did the colonists do about each of them?

Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

NOTE: Your student's essay should only have three supporting paragraphs, although this sample includes paragraphs on all seven of Parliament's Acts from which he could pick.

Quartering Act:

- *Attempted to have colonists contribute to the cost of maintaining troops in America*
- *Required colonists to provide lodging, fuel, candles, cider, and beer to soldiers*
- *Colonists had discovered that they could fight Indians as well or better than British soldiers could.*
- *Dragged their feet, providing fewer supplies than were expected*

Revenue Act/Sugar Act:

- *Tax on imported molasses (3-cent/gallon), crucial for the northern rum trade*
- *Protests convinced Parliament to lower tax to 1-cent/gallon*

Stamp Act:

- *Directly taxed the colonies by means of tax stamps which were required on all official printed documents, down to playing cards*
- *Provoked outrage and riots: colonists reserved the right to tax for local elected representatives*
- *Stamp Act Congress met in protest: first united protest action in colonies*
- *Colonists boycotted British goods until tax lifted*

Declaratory Act:

- *Accompanied Parliament's revocation of Stamp Act*
- *Made it legal for Parliament and the king to exercise full legislative authority over the colonists*

Townshend Duties:

- *Indirect taxes levied on key imports from England: glass, lead, paint, paper, and tea*
- *Recognized by colonists as an attempt to slip disagreeable taxes by without their notice*
- *Colonists boycotted British goods, severely hurting British merchants.*
- *All duties eventually lifted except for that on tea, maintained to emphasize the point that Parliament had power to tax the colonies if it so chose*

Tea Act:

- *Colonists smuggling tea to avoid paying Townshend Duty*
- *Tea Act enabled British East India Company to sell tea for less than smugglers' price*
- *Intended to trick colonists into paying duties, thereby betraying their argument that Parliament had no right to tax them*
- *Bostonians held the Boston Tea Party, dumping East India Company tea into the harbor.*

Intolerable Acts:

- *Series of measures reducing Boston to a state of virtual siege under martial law until the Bostonians made restitution for the Boston Tea Party*
 - *Closed Boston harbor*
 - *Crippled the Massachusetts legislature*
 - *Appointed British General Gage as governor-dictator of Massachusetts*
- *Continental Congress met for first time to decide upon a united colonial response to aid Boston*

Sample Answer

In the years following the French and Indian Wars, Parliament passed a number of Acts that seemed to undermine the colonists' rights. The _____, _____, and _____ Acts, and the colonists' response to each of them, helped to bring the colonies to the point of the Revolutionary War.

The Quartering Act trespassed on colonists' rights by forcing them to house British troops without their consent. From the British perspective, it made sense: Britain was short on resources to support her troops due to her debts from the French and Indian Wars, which had been fought on the colonists' behalf. Surely they could help with the upkeep of soldiers who were there for their own good! The colonists, however, insisted that the Quartering Act violated the British Bill of Rights. Additionally, colonists had discovered that they could fight Indians as well or better than British regulars. Colonists dragged their heels, providing fewer supplies than were expected whenever they could get away with it. This further increased tensions between Britain and the colonies.

The Sugar Act, also called the Revenue Act, was another example of an act of Parliament that insulted and angered the colonists. In this act, Parliament attempted to levy a direct tax on the colonies by putting a 3-cent per gallon tax on imported molasses. The northern rum industry depended heavily on imported molasses, and so the Sugar Act threatened to destroy their trade. Their protests eventually convinced Parliament to lower the tax to 1-cent per gallon, but relations were still strained.

The Stamp Act was one of the most abhorred acts of Parliament in the colonies. In the Stamp Act, Parliament levied a direct tax on the colonists by requiring them to purchase tax stamps for all official printed documents, from newspapers to playing cards. This act provoked riots in the colonies, as well as boycotts of British goods. Also, the colonists made a united effort against the British for the first time, sending delegates to an America-wide Stamp Act Congress. This Congress declared that the colonists would only consent to be taxed by their own local, elected representatives. With the Stamp Act, dissension began to flare up in real earnest.

The Declaratory Act was a minor act of Parliament, but it still increased tensions between England and the colonies. Eventually, colonial boycotts under the Stamp Act hurt British merchants so much that Parliament had to revoke the Stamp Act. However, the duty on tea remained, to prove that Parliament was not actually backing down, and in addition, Parliament passed the Declaratory Act. This act made it the law that Parliament and the king could exercise full legislative authority over the colonists. By this act, Parliament denied the claims of the Stamp Act Congress and kept the tensions tight.

The Townshend Duties represented a subtler, but just as bad, attempt to tax the American colonies. These acts placed duties on imports from England, such as glass, lead, paper, and tea. In this way, they taxed the colonists indirectly. The colonists were not amused by this attempt to sneak secret taxes under their noses. They boycotted again, until the British repealed the duties on everything but tea. In this way, the Townshend Duties strained relations between the colonies and the mother country even more.

The Tea Act, related to the Townshend Duties, made the situation even worse. The colonists persisted in boycotting British tea on principle, since a duty was still attached to tea even when all the other duties were lifted. Instead, they smuggled tea in from other countries. Parliament issued the Tea Act to help the British East India Company, the main supplier of British Tea, to sell their taxed tea for less than the smuggled tea. Parliament hoped to get the colonists to fall for the lower prices, thus paying the tax and belying their argument that they would never allow "taxation without representation." It didn't work. Bostonians, dressed as Indians, staged the Boston Tea Party and dumped shiploads of tea into Boston Harbor. The Tea Acts led to the worst confrontation yet between the colonies and the mother country.

The Intolerable Acts were the climax of Parliament's attempts to bring the colonies under its control. Enraged by the Boston Tea Party, Parliament passed a series of measures putting Boston under virtual siege until the Bostonians made restitution for the damages to the tea. Boston harbor was closed, the Massachusetts legislature was hobbled, and martial law was imposed. A new governor was given almost dictatorial powers. This outright tyranny caused all the colonies to band together at last. The Continental Congress met, with delegates from almost all states, to discuss how to resist Britain and aid besieged Boston. With the Intolerable Acts, the tension between Parliament and the colonies reached a head.

Parliament's attitude towards the colonies in the years after the French and Indian War, as well as the colonists' response, caused tensions between the countries to grow to dangerous proportions. Thus the _____, _____, and _____ Acts, along with others, brought America to the brink of the American Revolution.

2. “In light of the Bible’s teachings on submission to rulers, the colonists were wrong to rebel against the lawful authority of King George III.” Support or refute this statement, using Scriptures to back up your position. (You may have your Bible with you for reference as you work.)

NOTE: This question asks your student to form his own argument regarding a complex issue, and ought to be graded with according leniency. Ideally, you will have already discussed this statement at length before assigning it as an essay quiz. Because there are such strong arguments and opinions on either side of this issue, we found it inadvisable to offer a sample answer. Instead, we present a bulleted outline of various arguments your student might employ. Look to see that he articulates and defends his own position as formulated during your class discussion, defining terms and supporting assertions along the way.

Sample Arguments

- *Bible clearly teaches submission to authorities:*
 - *Romans 13:1-2: “Everyone must submit himself to the governing authorities, for there is no authority except that which God has established. The authorities that exist have been established by God. Consequently, he who rebels against the authority is rebelling against what God has instituted, and those who do so will bring judgment on themselves.”*
 - *1 Peter 2:13-15: “Submit yourselves for the Lord’s sake to every authority instituted among men: whether to the king, as the supreme authority, or to governors, who are sent by him to punish those who do wrong and to commend those who do right. For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish men Show proper respect to everyone: Love the brotherhood of believers, fear God, honor the king.”*
 - *1 Timothy 2:1-2: “I urge, then, first of all, that requests, prayers, intercession, and thanksgiving be made for everyone—for kings and all those in authority, that we may live peaceful and quiet lives in all godliness and holiness.”*
 - *The apostles wrote these words under some of the worst Roman emperors ever, including Nero; how much more should Christians submit to less objectionable rulers!*
- *Bible also teaches kings’ responsibilities to rule well: kings are to rule by wisdom, with justice (Proverbs 8:15-16)*
- *Personal responsibility to obey God and one’s conscience in matters of religious belief:*
 - *Midwives in Egypt rewarded by God for sparing the Israelite babies (Exodus 1:17-21)*
 - *Apostles in Acts refusing to stop preaching Christ at Sanhedrin’s command (Acts 5:29)*
 - *Luther before the Diet of Worms*
 - *Colonists feared that the king planned to abridge their freedom of conscience by establishing Anglicanism in the colonies, as evidenced by the Quebec Act interfering with Canadian religion*
- *Colonists engaged (mostly) in non-cooperation and non-violent appeals or protests.*
 - *There is biblical support for non-violent non-cooperation to unlawful authority, such as when someone refuses to obey and then takes the consequences (e.g., Peter and John continued to preach the gospel when told not to). Colonists considered Parliament and the king to be taking unlawful authority.*
 - *Likewise, it is biblical to appeal to authorities for a change of their minds or policies.*
- *Doing good (and trusting that God will uphold the righteous cause) held up as the model for rectifying evil: “If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone. Do not take revenge, my friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: ‘It is mine to avenge; I will repay,’ says the Lord ... Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.” (Romans 12:18-21)*
- *Puritans taught the civic responsibilities of believers*
- *Extra-biblical arguments:*
 - *Covenant theory of government, taught by Puritans: voluntary association, limits on power, careful delineation of the realms of the church and state, rights of individuals to disobey or depose a sovereign who deprived subjects of religious liberties*
 - *Locke’s political theory: Government exists to protect people’s life, liberty, and property; if it fails to do so, the people have the right to change their government.*
 - *Knox’s argument: Christians should overthrow a sovereign who violates his right to the practice of biblical religion.*
 - *Witherspoon’s perspective: Colonists’ actions were necessary to preserve the godly order for which America had originally been established.*