

2025



AP[®] United States History

Sample Student Responses and Scoring Commentary Set 1

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Short-Answer Question 3

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Question 3: Short Answer No Stimulus**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timed nature of the exam, responses may contain errors that do not detract from their overall quality, as long as the historical content used to advance the argument is accurate.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 political development in British North America from 1607 to 1753. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- British American colonies established self-governing institutions.
- In New England, political power was based on participatory town meetings.
- Enlightenment values encouraged colonists in British North America to assert principles of self-governance.
- Colonists' desire for more land prompted conflicts with Native Americans.
- Many proprietary and corporate colonies transitioned to direct royal government.
- British officials did not consistently enforce mercantilist policies.

B Briefly describe one effect of the Seven Years' War from 1754 to 1765. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- Great Britain further taxed its North American colonies to pay for the Seven Years' War.
- The Seven Years' War led to the end of the French colonies in North America.
- The Seven Years' War heightened tensions between the colonists, British officials, and Native American groups.

C Briefly explain how one group responded to debates about the rights of British colonists from 1765 to 1783. **1 point**

Examples of acceptable responses may include the following:

- In response to debates about the rights of British colonists, American colonists believed government violations of their natural rights justified declaring independence.

- During the American Revolution, Loyalists attempted to defend the British Crown against Patriots who claimed that the British violated their rights.
 - Patriots rejected British taxation policies, leading to public protests that criticized the rule of the British Crown.
 - British officials asserted their right to govern the colonies and sent soldiers to suppress the colonial rebellion.
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Sample 3A 1 of 1

A. One political development in British North American in the period of 1607 to 1753 was the creation of early forms of self government in the colonies. For example, the pilgrims travelling on the Mayflower signed the mayflower compact, which provided for a set of rules and policies for their colony in America. This was form of government was not seen often at the time and proved effective. This development of a self governing politcal system was the beggining of American ideology that would eventually become the constition.

B. The Seven Years' War from 1754 to 1765 had lasting impacts on Great Britain and the colonies in an economic manor. The part of the Seven Years' War that raged on the American front, or the French and Indian War, was very costly and due to the lack of military experience or soldiers, Britian was forced to spend large amounts of money and exert a strong militarial presence in the colonies to defend against the French forces. As a result, this war left Great Britain in a large amount of debt, which they attempted to resolve by imposing a variety of taxes on the colonies. This was infuriating to many. They added taxes such as the Stamp Act, which added a tax on every paper used, the Tea Act, imposing a tax on tea, and the Quartering Act, which required colonists to feed and clothe soldiers in their homes. Not only did this impact the colonists economically, but it also increased tensions and resentment towards Great Britain.

C. During the period of 1765--1783, Colonists were experiencing increasign resentment towards Great Britain for their treatment. They were angered by taxing, virtual representation, and the quartering act and much more. Some engaged in groups such as the sons and daughters of liberty, which actively fought for the rights of the colonists and oposed british legislature against them. The sons of liberty responded to the Tea Act by engaging in the boston tea party and throwing expensive teas into the ocean as an act of rebllion.

A. From 1607 to 1753, a sense of independence had rooted its way into the mind of the settlers. Being an entire ocean away from their parent country, Britain, the American colonists had mostly been providing for themselves, and as such, a feeling of independence was becoming increasingly more prevalent by the day in the colonies.

B. After the Seven Years' War, the colonists had heavier taxes implemented on them, to pay off the war. This angered the colonists, who felt that they were the ones who fought the war, not those British hundreds of miles away. So, these taxes gave the effect of growing resentment and anger within the colonies and their residents.

C. The growing movement of Patriots within the colonies responded to debates about the rights of British colonists from 1765 to 1783 by fervently believing in the ideas of "no taxation without representation", as well as the word independence being used more and more around this time period, especially among the Patriots.

Sample 3C 1 of 1

A. A political development in British North America between 1607-1753 was the Boston Tea Party. This was a big moment for British North America because they had been under a lot of pressure from Britain at this time, being taxed through acts like the Stamp Act and the Tea Act. They finally revolted and worked to gain a better political handle on their continent by dumping crates of tea into the Boston Harbor.

B. An effect from the Seven Years' War was the anger colonists felt and their strive to fix the oppression they were facing. During this time period, they worked to establish the Declaration of Independence. After America had revolted enough and started to take control of their injustices against Britain, they signed the Declaration of Independence, ultimately freeing them from British control.

C. The Loyalists remained loyal to Britain and thought that the Patriot's outbursts against Britain were not acceptable. The Loyalists felt that they were obligated to stay loyal to Britain and did not want to risk their lives, even if they felt the oppression and even if the taxes effected them.

Short Answer Question 3

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

Overview

NEW for 2025: The question overviews can be found in the *Chief Reader Report on Student Responses on AP Central*.

Sample: 3A

SAQ Part A Score: 1

SAQ Part B Score: 1

SAQ Part C Score: 1

Total Score: 3

The response to Part A earned 1 point by accurately describing the political development from 1607 to 1753 of self-government by citing the Mayflower Compact and describing its purpose as a “set of rules and policies for their colony.”

The response to Part B earned 1 point by accurately describing how an effect of the Seven Years’ War was an increase in British taxation on its American colonies through the Stamp Act and the Tea Act.

The response to Part C earned 1 point by accurately explaining how the Sons and Daughters of Liberty responded to the debates over the rights of British colonists through protests for colonists’ rights, such as the Boston Tea Party.

Sample: 3B

SAQ Part A Score: 0

SAQ Part B Score: 1

SAQ Part C Score: 1

Total Score: 2

The response to Part A did not earn a point because it does not describe a political development in British North America from 1607 to 1753. The mention of colonists “fending for themselves” and a colonial “feeling of independence” are too vague to be credited as references to salutary neglect.

The response to Part B earned 1 point by accurately describing how an effect of the Seven Years’ War was an increase of British taxation upon the American colonies because of the British war debt and the growth of colonial “resentment and anger” directed toward Great Britain.

The response to Part C earned 1 point because it accurately explains how the Patriots were a group that responded to debates about the rights of British colonists by promoting the ideas of “no taxation without representation” and colonial independence.

Short Answer Question 3 (continued)

Sample: 3C

SAQ Part A Score: 0

SAQ Part B Score: 0

SAQ Part C Score: 1

Total Score: 1

The response to Part A did not earn a point because the Tea Act and the Stamp Act are not political developments within the time frame of the prompt.

The response to Part B did not earn a point because the description of the Declaration of Independence as an effect of the Seven Years' War is out of the time frame of the prompt.

The response to Part C earned 1 point because it accurately explains how Loyalists responded to debates about the rights of British colonists by remaining loyal to Great Britain during the American Revolution.