

# The Declaration of Independence Test

## Mastering the Content

Select the letter next to the best answer.

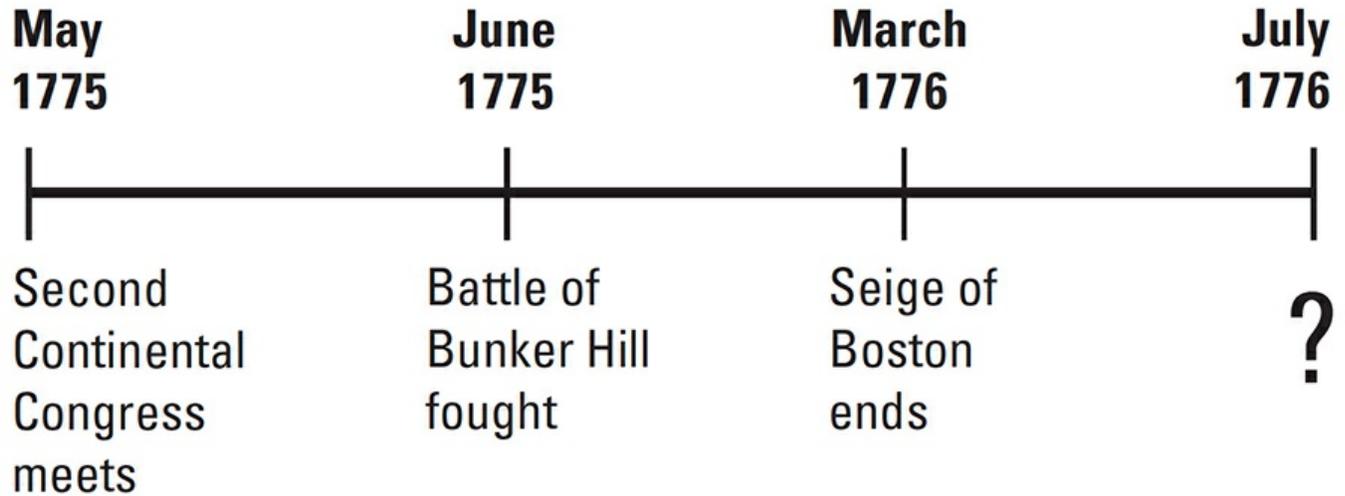
1. Patrick Henry gave a famous speech that ended with the words “give me liberty, or give me death!” With which group did he identify himself?



- A. Patriots  
B. Loyalists  
C. British citizens  
D. members of Parliament
2. The Continental army was composed of  
A. troops from all the colonies.  
B. troops from throughout Great Britain.  
C. only troops from the New England colonies.  
D. only troops from Virginia and Massachusetts.
3. Which of these describes the mood of most colonies immediately following the events at Lexington and Concord?  
A. They were reluctant to start a war.  
B. They were eager to declare war against the British.  
C. They sided with the Loyalists against the Patriots.  
D. They wanted to move to Great Britain.
4. Which of these best describes the outcome of the Battle of Bunker Hill?  
A. The British won decisively.  
B. The militia won by a narrow margin.  
C. The militia surrendered to the British.  
D. The British won but suffered many losses.
5. Why was George Washington chosen to be a military leader?  
A. He had experience.  
B. He wanted the role.  
C. He was very wealthy.  
D. He was highly educated.

6. What effect did Common Sense have in the colonies?
  - A. It instilled fear of war in the colonists.
  - B. It convinced the colonies to remain loyal to Great Britain.
  - C. It persuaded many colonists that America should be independent.
  - D. It petitioned the king to end the quarrel between the colonies and Great Britain.
7. What was the purpose of the Olive Branch Petition?
  - A. to persuade British troops to leave Boston
  - B. to encourage colonists to join the army
  - C. to convince Parliament to repeal the Stamp Act
  - D. to ask King George to make peace with the colonies
8. When Washington took command of the Continental Army all of the following were true EXCEPT
  - A. the army lacked supplies
  - B. the troops were well trained
  - C. he created order among the men
  - D. the army was short on gun powder
9. On March 4, 1776 the British soldiers in Boston awoke to the ridge above Boston full of Patriot cannons. What was their response?
  - A. They sent Hessians up the hills to attack the embankments
  - B. They brought more ships into Boston Harbor for a total of 100
  - C. They left with 9,000 troops and abandoned the city
  - D. They armed the Loyalists and left them to fight for Boston
10. Why was the Declaration of Independence written?
  - A. to start the American Revolution
  - B. to offer a peace settlement to Great Britain
  - C. to instruct how a country wins its freedom
  - D. to explain why the colonies were separating from Great Britain
11. How do natural rights, as described in the Declaration of Independence, differ from other rights?
  - A. People are born with natural rights.
  - B. People can vote to choose natural rights.
  - C. Natural rights are given only to citizens.
  - D. Natural rights come from the government.
12. In a draft of the Declaration of Independence, Jefferson charged the king with violating the "sacred rights of life and liberty . . . of a distant people [by] carrying them into slavery." This passage was removed for all of these reasons except
  - A. it might lead to demands to free slaves.
  - B. it was an unimportant issue in the colonies.
  - C. it was unfair to blame the king for enslaving Africans.
  - D. it might offend merchants who profited from the slave trade.
13. According to Thomas Jefferson, the power to rule comes from
  - A. God.
  - B. the king.
  - C. Parliament.
  - D. the governed.

14. Why did Thomas Jefferson say that King George III was an unfit ruler?
- He was not born in Great Britain.
  - He denied the colonists their rights.
  - He was not elected by Parliament.
  - He lived far away from the colonies.
15. Look at the timeline. Which of these belongs in place of the question mark on the timeline?



- Common Sense published
  - Olive Branch Petition sent
  - American Revolution ends
  - Declaration of Independence signed
16. At the Second Continental Congress, the decision was made to
- form an army.
  - establish colonists' natural rights.
  - declare war on Great Britain.
  - demand a repeal of the Tea Act.
17. To Great Britain, the signing of the Declaration of Independence was
- an act of loyalty.
  - an act of treason.
  - an act of bravery.
  - an act of insanity.
18. What is unanimous?
- Everybody wants something different.
  - There is no vote to make a decision.
  - Everyone votes for the same thing.
  - Everyone votes secretly.
19. What is endowed?
- Blessed or given.
  - To need.
  - To want.
  - Taken away from.

20. What is unalienable?  
A. Cannot be given.  
B. Cannot be taken.  
C. To be born with.  
D. To want for something.
21. What natural rights does Jefferson describe in the declaration? List three.
22. What power do people have over government?
23. We hold these \_\_\_\_\_ to be self-evident, that all men are created \_\_\_\_\_, that they are \_\_\_\_\_ by their \_\_\_\_\_ with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_