

DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE

1776

I. Facts and Concepts (37 pts)

A. Introductory Paragraphs

(1) 1. Quote the phrase in the first paragraph that indicates that the colonies are going to declare their independence.

(1) 2. What reason do the authors give in the first paragraph for saying that they must explain why they are declaring independence?

(3) 3. Look up the word "unalienable" in a dictionary and write down its definition. What three unalienable rights does the document list?

(1) 4. According to this document, what is the purpose for which governments are instituted?

(1) 5. From what source do governments get their power?

(1) 6. Under what circumstances does the document say a people have a right to overthrow their government?

(1) 7. What two-word phrase does the author of the Declaration use to describe the British government over the colonies?

B. Grievances

(4) 8. Quote from four grievances detailing abuses by England against the legislative bodies of the colonies.

(3) 9. Quote from three grievances describing how England has interfered with the legal system in the colonies.

(3) 10. What three groups of people had the British enlisted to fight against the colonists, as stated in three of the grievances?

C. Concluding Paragraphs

- (1) 11. According to the document, what had the colonists done to try to persuade the British to change their policies?

- (1) 12. Quote the phrase from the last paragraph in which the colonists officially declare their independence.

- (1) 13. What powers do the colonies now claim to have as a result of declaring their independence?

II. For Further Understanding

- (1) 14. Who is the "he" mentioned in the grievances? (Give both his name and his title.)

- (1) 15. Who wrote the Declaration of Independence?
