

CONSTITUTION 101

Module 2: Principles of the American Revolution

2.6 Test Your Knowledge

PRINCIPLES OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION

Complete the questions in the following quiz to test your knowledge of basic ideas and concepts covered in this module.

1. A key principle of the American Revolution is the idea of Natural Rights. The notion is that these rights come from _____ and humans are entitled to them _____.
 - a. God or by nature / from birth
 - b. The king / after taking an oath of allegiance
 - c. The government / after they turn 18 years old
 - d. Congress / only if you pay your taxes
2. The principle of Popular Sovereignty holds that, in the most legitimate form of constitutional government, the power of government comes from _____.
 - a. A powerful tyrant who seizes power by force
 - b. The people
 - c. A hereditary leader whose family is experienced in government
 - d. Noblemen with wealth and property
3. Another important principle is the Rule of Law, the idea that we have a government of laws, not of men. Under this theory, _____.
 - a. People are treated differently before the law
 - b. Those who have enough wealth do not have to follow the law
 - c. The president can violate the law by exercising executive privilege
 - d. No one is above the law
4. Many of the founders were students of this 17th- and 18th-century movement that focused on intellectual, philosophical, and political thought.
 - a. The Progressive Era
 - b. The New Deal
 - c. The Enlightenment
 - d. The Crusades
5. Justice Neil Gorsuch once told the story of the Roman Emperor Caligula, who wrote down laws in small print and posted them on a very high pillar so that no one could read them. According to Justice Gorsuch, this was an example of _____.
 - a. Clever, effective behavior for an emperor
 - b. A violation of the rule of law

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- c. The importance of hiding the laws from citizens
 - d. Why you should always carry binoculars

- 6. An *alienable right* is a right we can give to the government, for example the right to punish. According to John Locke's *Second Treatise*, the people surrender some of these rights to the government in exchange for _____.
 - a. Political influence
 - b. The common good
 - c. Our security
 - d. Both B and C

- 7. An *inalienable* (or unalienable) right is something that is ours alone and we can't give it away to the government. An example of an inalienable right is _____.
 - a. My house
 - b. My car
 - c. My religious beliefs
 - d. Some of my income

- 8. The study of the relationship between the government and the people, where the people give away some of their rights in exchange for protection is known as _____.
 - a. Social Contract Theory
 - b. Quid Pro Quo
 - c. The Great Compromise
 - d. The Corrupt Bargain

- 9. According to the founders, what was the solution to tyrannical misrule by the government?
 - a. Tyranny was acceptable as long as some people had rights.
 - b. The people had the right to alter or abolish it.
 - c. The people had to accept it and submit to tyranny.
 - d. The people should move to another country.

- 10. Which of the following are essential to the Rule of Law?
 - a. The people must be able to see the law.
 - b. The people must be able to understand the law.
 - c. The law should treat people equally and fairly.
 - d. All of the above

- 11. Which of these three principles can be seen in the Declaration of Independence?
 - a. Popular Sovereignty
 - b. Natural Rights

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- c. Rule of Law
 - d. All of the above
12. One of the Declaration's most famous passages asserts that "*all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights, that among these are _____.*"
- a. No taxation without representation
 - b. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
 - c. Government of the people, by the people, for the people
 - d. Liberty or Death
13. According to Thomas Jefferson in his letter to Henry Lee, what was the object of the Declaration of Independence?
- a. To find out new principles
 - b. To say things which had never been said before
 - c. To place before mankind the common sense of the subject, in terms so plain and firm as to command their assent, and to justify ourselves in the independent stand we are compelled to take
 - d. All of the above
14. In a powerful vision of popular sovereignty, the Declaration says that "*governments are instituted among men.*" Where does the Declaration say the power of government comes from?
- a. The consent of the governed
 - b. The president
 - c. The Congress
 - d. The Supreme Court
15. According to the Declaration, in what way did King George III abuse his rule of the American people?
- a. Imposing taxation without representation
 - b. Violated jury trial rights
 - c. Sent standing armies in times of peace
 - d. All of the above
16. The Principles of the American Revolution would also serve as the foundation for the government of the United States, established by this document _____.
- a. Magna Carta
 - b. The Gettysburg Address
 - c. The Articles of Confederation
 - d. The Constitution

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17. Many key founders, including John Adams, Benjamin Franklin, and Thomas Jefferson, drew important lessons about happiness and virtue from ancient philosophers. How would they have defined happiness?
 - a. Having a good day
 - b. Short-term pleasure
 - c. Long-term virtue
 - d. Holding ultimate power

18. In response to the taxation policies of Great Britain, this founder published a series of essays titled, *Letters from a Farmer in Pennsylvania to the Inhabitants of the British Colonies* (1768).
 - a. Benjamin Franklin
 - b. Thomas Paine
 - c. John Dickinson
 - d. Robert Morris

19. Thomas Paine became one of America's all-time best-selling authors with his dramatic publication of this work in 1776.
 - a. Common Sense
 - b. The Declaration of Independence
 - c. Thoughts on Government
 - d. The Olive Branch Petition

20. According to Thomas Paine, the idea that monarchs get their authority directly from God, known as the divine right of kings was _____.
 - a. True only in Europe, not America
 - b. True only if the king proved to be a good king
 - c. True but the American colonists should ignore it
 - d. A lie

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Answer Key

1. A
2. B
3. D
4. C
5. B
6. D
7. C
8. A
9. B
10. D
11. D
12. B
13. C
14. A
15. D
16. D
17. C
18. C
19. A
20. D