

Exercise walk-through

3.4

Philosophical Foundations of the American Revolution

AP United States History

Which idea explains the claim?

Teacher-written claims, not historical quotations

- A** People possess rights before any government exists. A government that violates them can face justified resistance.
- B** Public authority should rest on the people's consent. Citizens should put the public good above private gain.

Try it: Match each claim to **natural rights** or **republicanism**.
Explain the difference in focus, rather than only naming the ideas.

Worked distinction: rights and public government

A: Natural rights

Rights belong to people before government. Government should protect them; violations can justify resistance.

B: Republicanism

Government rests on consent rather than hereditary rule. Civic virtue means acting for the public good, not only private interests.

The ideas connect: supporters could argue that republican government would protect natural rights. They are useful together, not interchangeable labels.

Revise a claim about revolutionary ideas

A student's claim to test

Natural rights mattered only when Americans broke with Britain. Republicanism mattered only after independence.

Evidence, paraphrased from CED Topic 3.4: During the independence movement, colonists' support for republican government based on natural rights appeared in *Common Sense* and the Declaration of Independence.

Try it: Rewrite the claim using this evidence. Explain how the two ideas could support the same political argument.

Worked revision: the ideas operated together

Revised claim: Republicanism and natural rights helped colonists criticise British rule and imagine a different government during the independence movement.

Reasoning: The argument was not simply that an old ruler should be replaced. Natural rights supplied standards for judging authority, while republicanism offered government based on the people's consent.

Use the evidence to explain the idea's role. Naming two terms alone does not establish an argument, and the terms do not belong to separate, fixed stages.

Republicanism and natural rights are not synonyms

	REPUBLICANISM	NATURAL RIGHTS
MAIN FOCUS	public government based on consent	rights people possess before government
GOVERNMENT AND CITIZENS	civic virtue — acting for the public good	government should protect rights, not violate them
POLITICAL USE	supports self-government and challenges hereditary rule	provides standards to judge authority and justify resistance

Natural rights concern rights people possess; republicanism concerns public government. Revolutionary arguments often linked the two.

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 State what Enlightenment ideas emphasized.

[2]

2.2 State what religion contributed.

[2]

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[2]

2.1

- individual talent over hereditary privilege

2.2 State what religion contributed.

[2]

2.2

- it strengthened Americans' view of themselves as a people blessed with liberty, a contribution the CED keeps distinct from the Enlightenment's

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 The documents outlived their moment.

(a) State the CED's claim.

[2]

Exercise 2.3 (a)

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(a) State the CED's claim.

[2]

(a)

- the ideas resonated throughout American history, shaping Americans' understanding of the ideals on which the nation was based

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 The documents outlived their moment.

(b) Name the two documents.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 The documents outlived their moment.

(b) Name the two documents.

[1]

(b)

- Common Sense and the Declaration of Independence

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Enlightenment ideas emphasized individual talent over

[1]

☐

A hereditary privilege

B natural rights

C religion

D commerce

3.2 The CED treats religion's contribution as

[1]

☐

A distinct from the Enlightenment's

B identical to it

C absent

D hostile to liberty

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 Enlightenment ideas emphasized individual talent over

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- ☐ **A** hereditary privilege
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C religion
D commerce

3.1 A

- hereditary privilege

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[1]

- ☐ **A** distinct from the Enlightenment's
B identical to it
C absent
D hostile to liberty

3.2 A

- distinct

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A later generation appeals to the Declaration to argue for a right it does not yet have.

(a) State what the CED's claim predicts.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A later generation appeals to the Declaration to argue for a right it does not yet have.

(a) State what the CED's claim predicts.

[1]

(a)

- exactly this

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A later generation appeals to the Declaration to argue for a right it does not yet have.

(b) Explain the mechanism.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A later generation appeals to the Declaration to argue for a right it does not yet have.

(b) Explain the mechanism.

[2]

(b)

- the documents state principles in general terms, so anyone excluded can appeal to them against the practice that excludes them