

Exercise walk-through

3.5

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 Name the five reasons the CED gives.

[3]

2.2 State what the Patriots were up against.

[2]

Exercises 2.1-2.2

2.1 Name the five reasons the CED gives. [3]

2.1

- colonial militias; the Continental Army; Washington's military leadership; ideological commitment and resilience; assistance from European allies
-

2.2 State what the Patriots were up against. [2]

2.2

- considerable loyalist opposition; Britain's apparently overwhelming military and financial advantages

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 “Despite” marks the outcome.

(a) State what it signals.

[2]

Exercise 2.3 (a)

2.3 “Despite” marks the outcome.

(a) State what it signals.

[2]

(a)

- that the outcome requires explanation because it was not the expected result

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 “Despite” marks the outcome.

(b) State why five reasons are given rather than one.

[1]

Exercise 2.3 (b)

2.3 “Despite” marks the outcome.

(b) State why five reasons are given rather than one.

[1]

(b)

- no single factor obviously accounts for an unexpected outcome

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 The CED calls Britain's military and financial advantages

[1]

☐

A apparently overwhelming

B negligible

C nonexistent

D decisive

3.2 Loyalist opposition was

[1]

☐

A internal to the colonies

B a British army

C French

D irrelevant

Exercises 3.1-3.2

3.1 The CED calls Britain's military and financial advantages

[1]

- ☐ **A** apparently overwhelming
B negligible
C nonexistent
D decisive

3.1 A

- apparently overwhelming

3.2 Loyalist opposition was

[1]

- ☐ **A** internal to the colonies
B a British army
C French
D irrelevant

3.2 A

- internal

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A student explains the Patriot victory entirely by French assistance.

(a) State what is missing.

[1]

Exercise 3.3 (a)

3.3 A student explains the Patriot victory entirely by French assistance.

(a) State what is missing.

[1]

(a)

- the four other reasons the CED gives

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A student explains the Patriot victory entirely by French assistance.

(b) Explain why the CED's list matters.

[2]

Exercise 3.3 (b)

3.3 A student explains the Patriot victory entirely by French assistance.

(b) Explain why the CED's list matters.

[2]

(b)

- European assistance arrived to support a cause already sustained by militias, an army and ideological commitment, so it explains part of the outcome and not the whole of it