

Exercise walk-through

Philosophical Foundations of the American Revolution ■ 3.4

eXercise

You must be able to

- state what Enlightenment ideas emphasized
- state what religion contributed
- name the two documents the CED gives
- state the CED's claim about the documents' later influence

Method — Enlightenment

Enlightenment ideas and philosophy inspired many American political thinkers to emphasize individual talent over hereditary privilege.

Method — Religion

Religion strengthened Americans' view of themselves as a people blessed with liberty. The CED gives religion a distinct contribution rather than folding it into the Enlightenment.

Method — Two documents

The colonists' belief in the superiority of republican forms of government based on the natural rights of the people found expression in Thomas Paine's Common Sense and the Declaration of Independence.

Method — Later influence

The ideas in these documents resonated throughout American history, shaping Americans' understanding of the ideals on which the nation was based. The CED explicitly makes these documents matter beyond their moment.

Practice 2.1 ■ 2 marks

State what Enlightenment ideas emphasized.

Solution 2.1

Method: Enlightenment

Worked steps

individual talent over hereditary privilege **B2**.

Practice 2.2 ■ 2 marks

State what religion contributed.

Solution 2.2

Worked steps

it strengthened Americans' view of themselves as a people blessed with liberty **B1**, a contribution the CED keeps distinct from the Enlightenment's **B1**.

Practice 2.3 ■ 2 marks

The documents outlived their moment.

- (a) State the CED's claim.
- (b) Name the two documents.

Solution 2.3

Method: Later influence

Worked steps

(a) the ideas resonated throughout American history **B1**, shaping Americans' understanding of the ideals on which the nation was based **B1**. (b) Common Sense and the Declaration of Independence **B1**.

Exam-style 3.1 ■ 1 mark

Enlightenment ideas emphasized individual talent over

A hereditary privilege

B natural rights

C religion

D commerce

Solution 3.1

Method: Enlightenment

A hereditary privilege



B natural rights

C religion

D commerce

Worked steps

A. hereditary privilege.

Exam-style 3.2 ■ 1 mark

The CED treats religion's contribution as

A distinct from the Enlightenment's

B identical to it

C absent

D hostile to liberty

Solution 3.2

Method: Religion

A distinct from the Enlightenment's



B identical to it

C absent

D hostile to liberty

Worked steps

A. distinct.

Exam-style 3.3 ■ 1 mark

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.
- (b) Explain the mechanism.

Solution 3.3

Worked steps

(a) exactly this **B1**. (b) the documents state principles in general terms **B1**, so anyone excluded can appeal to them against the practice that excludes them **B1**.