

DBQ AS A PRACTICE EXAM FOR THE AP US HISTORY EXAM



GRADES 10-12

PRACTICE EXAM MATERIALS

Document A: Benedict Arnold's Declaration of Principles

Crown Point, 15th June, 1775

Persuaded, that the Salvation of the Rights and Liberties of America, depends, Under GOD, on the firm Union of its Inhabitants, in a Vigorous Prosecution of the Measures necessary for its Safety And Convinced of the Necessity of preventing the Anarchy and Confusion which attend a Dissolution of the Powers of Government, WE, the Freeman, Freeholders, and Inhabitants of the Province of New York, being greatly alarmed at the avowed Design of the Ministry to raise a Revenue in America; and, Shocked by the bloody Scene now Acting in the Massachusetts Bay, DO, in the most Solemn Manner Resolve never to become Slaves; and do Associate under all the Ties of Religion, Honour, and Love to our Country, to Adopt and endeavour to Carry into Execution whatever Measures may be Recommended by the Continental Congress; or Resolved Upon by our Provincial Convintion for the purpose of preserving our Constitution and opposing the Execution of the Several Arbitrary and oppressive Acts of the British Parliament; Untill a Reconciliation Between Great Britain and America, on Constitutional Principles Which we most Ardently Desire Can be obtained And that we will in all Things follow the Advice of our General Committee Respecting the purposes aforesaid, The Preservation of Peace and Good Order, and the Safety of Individuals, and private party.

Benedict Arnold, Declaration of Principles, June 15, 1775.

Document B: Benedict Arnold to the Committee of Safety in Massachusetts

Ticonderoga, May 11, 1775

Gentlemen:

I wrote you yesterday that arriving in the vicinity of this place, I found one hundred and fifty men collected at the instance of some gentlemen from Connecticut (designed on the same errand on which I came) headed by Colonel Ethan Allen, and that I had joined them, not thinking proper to wait the arrival of the Troops I had engaged on the road, but to attempt the Fort by surprise; that we had taken the Fort at four o'clock yesterday morning without opposition, and made prisoners, one Captain, one Lieutenant, and forty odd privates and subalterns, and that we found the Fort in a most ruinous condition and not worth repairing. . . . On and before our taking possession here, I had agreed with Colonel Allen to issue further orders jointly, until I could raise a sufficient number of men to relieve his people, on which plan we proceeded . . .

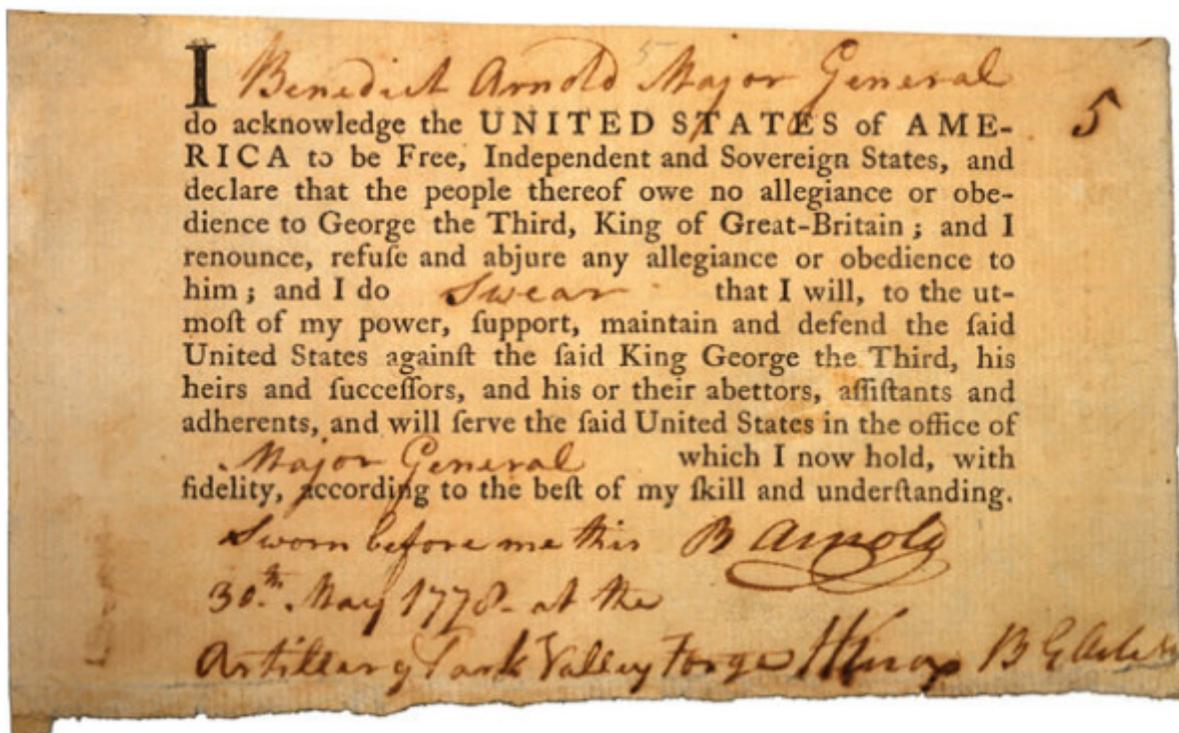


since which, Colonel Allen, finding he had the ascendancy over his people, positively insisted I should have no command, as I had forbid the soldiers plundering and destroying private property. The power is now taken out of my hands and I am no longer consulted, nor have I a voice in any matters. There is here at present near one hundred men, who are in the greatest confusion and anarchy, destroying and plundering private property, committing every enormity, and paying no attention to publick service. . . . Colonel Allen is a proper man to head his own wild people, but entirely unacquainted with military service; and as I am the only person who has been legally authorized to take possession of this place, I am determined to insist on my right, and I think it my duty to remain here against all opposition, until I have further orders.

I have the honour to be, gentlemen, your most obedient humble servant,
BENEDICT ARNOLD

Benedict Arnold to the Committee of Safety in Massachusetts, May 11, 1775.

Document C: Benedict Arnold's Oath of Allegiance to America, May 30, 1778



Benedict Arnold, *Oath of Allegiance*, United States of America, May 30, 1778, New York State Archives.



Document D: 19th century political cartoon



Harpel, Oscar H and Burgoo Zac. *A proper family re-union*. 1865. Print: lithograph on wove paper. 26.6 x 31 cm. American cartoon print filing series, Library of Congress Prints and Photographs Division, Washington D.C., <https://www.loc.gov/item/2008661687/>.



Document E: Benedict Arnold at Saratoga, engraving

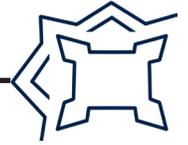


ARNOLD AT SARATOGA.

Document F: Capt. Ebenezer Wakefield: Comment on the Battle at Freeman's Farm, Saratoga

Riding in front of the line, his eyes flashing, pointing with his sword to the advancing foe, with a voice that rung clear as a trumpet,...nothing could exceed the bravery of Arnold on this day....There seemed to shoot out from him a magnetic flame that electrified his men and made heroes of all within his influence.

Capt. Ebenezer Wakefield, diary.



Document G: Excerpts from Benedict Arnold's Navy

Arnold and Gates

On August 19, Horatio Gates took command of the Northern Army. The loss of Ticonderoga had given Philip Schuyler's enemies in Congress the excuse they needed to replace him with the more politically favored Gates... Gates was an unfortunate choice for Arnold. The two men had been mutually respectful, even friendly, the year before, but their relationship had since soured, with Gates discovering a bitter dislike for Arnold. Gates was jealous of Arnold's increasing fame and reputation. Both men were ambitious; Gates, in particular, was actively maneuvering to supersede Washington as commander in chief of the Continental army, and he knew that Washington and Arnold were friendly.

Perhaps worst of all in Gates's view was that Arnold was a friend of Schuyler's, and Gates loathed Schuyler. (It is ironic that Arnold, labeled by many historians as unpleasant and difficult, was resented by Gates in part because of the men with whom Arnold enjoyed relations of mutual respect and affection.)

The First Battle of Freeman's Farm

...At Gate's headquarters on Bemis Heights, word filtered in that the British were on the move. Horatio Gates, whose caution had earned him the nickname "Granny Gates," saw no reason to advance from his army's well-entrenched high ground. Let Burgoyne fling his men against the American earthworks.

Arnold, however, did not agree. He correctly surmised that Burgoyne's main thrust would be against the American left, his command, and if the British dragged heavy guns up to the high ground opposite Bemis Heights, they could batter the American lines. To Arnold, it seemed foolish to let Burgoyne set the conditions of engagement.

Finally Gates relented, but only so far as allowing Arnold to send out an infantry regiment and a corps of riflemen to watch the enemy's movements and harass them...

"A Certain Pompous Little Fellow"

...Fighting of a different sort ensued in the American camp, chiefly between Arnold and Gates. Arnold had won the admiration of the officers and men of the army for his bold action at Freeman's Farm, whereas Gates, who had not wanted to attack at all and had not left headquarters once during the battle, came in for considerably less adulation. In a petty and vindictive gesture, Gates omitted from his report of the battle to Congress any mention of the officers involved, quite against the usual protocol of such reports. It was a slight aimed specifically at Arnold.

Gates then remove Morgan's riflemen from Arnold's command and took personal control of them, implying that Arnold had mishandled his troops... Gates spread rumors that Arnold had not participated in the battle at all.

James L. Nelson. *Benedict Arnold's Navy: The Ragtag Fleet that Lost the Battle of Lake Champlain but Won the American Revolution* (Camden, ME: McGraw-Hill, 2006), 346-351.



Document H: Letter, July 15, 1780 -- Benedict Arnold to John André

Inclosed in a cover addressed to Mr. Anderson.

Two days since I received a letter without date or Signature, informing me that S. Henry — was obliged to me for the intelligence communicated, and that he placed a full confidence in the Sincerity of my intentions, &c. &c. On the 13th Instant I addressed a letter to you expressing my Sentiments and expectations, viz, that the following Preliminaries be settled previous to cooperating, First, that S. Henry secure to me my property, valued at ten thousand pounds Sterling, to be paid to me or my Heirs in case of Loss; and, as soon as that ~~happens~~ shall happen, — hundred pounds per annum to be secured to me for life, in lieu of the pay and emoluments I give up, for my Services as they shall deserve. If I point out a plan of cooperation by which S. H. shall possess himself of West Point, the Garrison, &c. &c. twenty thousand pounds Sterling I think will be a cheap purchase for an object of so much importance. At the same time I request a thousand pounds to be paid my Agent — I expect a full and explicit answer — The 20th I set off for West Point. A personal interview with an officer that you can confide in is absolutely necessary to plan matters. In the mean time I shall communicate to our mutual Friend L. y all the intelligence in my power, until I have the pleasure of your answer.

July 15th Moore

P.S. the line of my letter of the 13th I did not add seven.

N.B. the postscript only relates to the manner of composing the letter referred to.

From the Collections of the Clements Library

Inclosed in a cover addressed to M[r.] Anderson / Two days since I received a letter without date or Signature, / informing me that S[ir]. Henry ----- was obliged to me for intelligence / communicated, and that he placed a full confidence in the Sincerity / of my intentions, etc. etc. On the 13th Instant I addressed a letter / to you expressing my Sentiments and expectations, viz, that / the following Preliminaries be settled previous to cooperating. - / First, that S[ir]. Henry secure to me my property, valued at ten thou- / sand pounds Sterling, to be paid to me or my Heirs in case of / Loss; and, as soon as that happens [strike out] shall happen, ---- hundred /



pounds per annum to be secured to me for life, in lieu of the / pay and emoluments I give up, for my Services as they shall / deserve - If I point out a plan of cooperation by which S[ir]. H[enry]. / shall possess himself of West Point, the Garrison, etc. etc. etc. twenty / thousand pounds Sterling I think will be a cheap purchase for / an object of so much importance. At the same time I request / thousand pounds to be paid my Agent - I expect a full / and explicit answer - The 20th I set off for West Point. A / personal interview with an officer that you can confide in / is absolutely necessary to plan matters. In the mean time / I shall communicate to our mutual Friend S[tansbur]y all the / intelligence in my power, until I have the pleasure of your answer. / Moore / July 15th [1780] / To the line of my letter of the 13th / I did not add seven.

Benedict Arnold to John André, July 15, 1780.