

Locke's Social Contract and the Declaration of Independence
Document Based Question, 8th Grade
Heather Deiches, McKeel Academy of Technology

Directions: Below you will find several documents related to Locke's Social Contract and the Declaration of Independence. Read each document and answer the questions related to the document. You will then be expected to write an essay answering the question you are given, using information from the documents and your knowledge of this time period.

Document 1

Read the following quotes from Locke's *Social Contract* and answer the following questions:

"Men have rights by their nature... We give up our right to ourselves exact [revenge] for crimes in return for [nonjudgmental] justice backed by overwhelming force. We retain the right to life and liberty, and gain the right to just, impartial protection of our property."

". Society creates order and grants the state its [purpose]... The only important role of the state is to ensure that justice is seen to be done"

"If a ruler seeks absolute power, if he acts both as judge and participant in disputes, he puts himself in a state of war with his subjects and we have the right and the duty to kill such rulers and their servants."

1. What rights are all men entitled to according to Locke?

2. According to Locke what is the purpose of a government?

3. According to Locke what do citizens have the right too if their ruler is abusing power?

4. According to Locke why would falsely people believe they do not have the right to use force?

Document 2

Read the following quotes From the *Declaration of Independence* and answer the following questions:

"We hold these truths to be [obvious], that all men are created equal, that they are [entitled] by their Creator with certain [mandatory] Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness. "

"That to [protect] these rights, Governments are [created] [by] Men, [coming] [from] their [own] powers from the [permission] of the [people]."

"That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these [rights], it is the Right of the People to [change] or to [get] [ride] [of] [it], and to [create] [a] new Government"

"We, therefore, the [elected][officials]of the United States of America, in ...[promise] publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and ... [should] be Free and Independent States"

5. According to the document what rights do all men have?

6. What is the purpose of a Government in the document?

7. What is suggested that people should do if their government is abusing its power?

8. What was Americas response in the document to the king's abuse of power?

Document 3

Use the image below to answer the following questions:



9. The creation of what document is depicted in the picture?

10. Who is the Author of this Document?

11. What do the papers on the floor suggest about this document?

Document 4

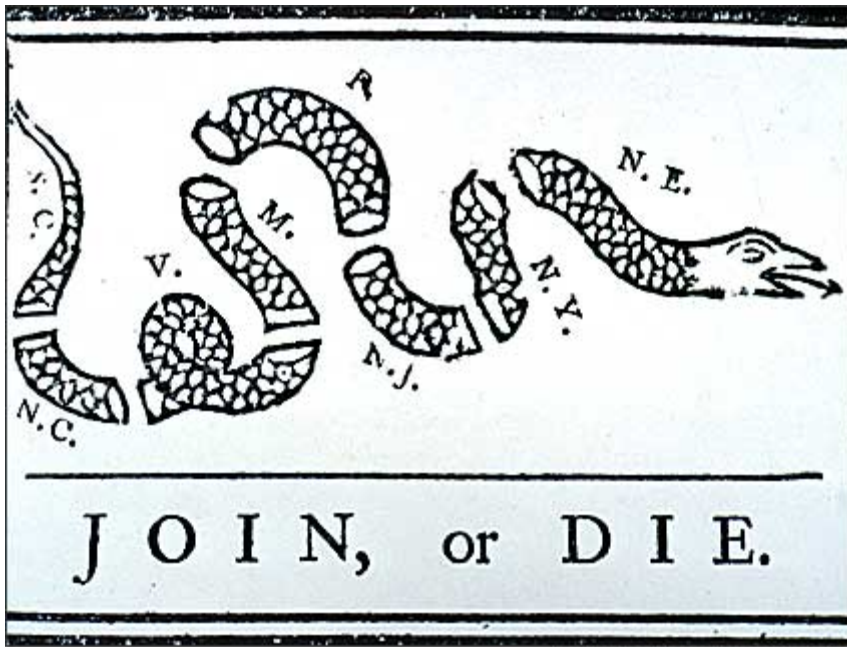
These questions relate to the political cartoon below:

12. What Image is depicted in this Political Cartoon?

13. What do the segments represent?

14. What issue is the slogan referring to?

15. Who is the Author of this cartoon?



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Essay question:

Use your knowledge of Locke's Social Contract, the Declaration of Independence, and the drawings to write a well-written essay comparing their ideas. Use your best grammar, punctuation, spelling and critical thinking skills.

Question: How did the ideas of Locke's *Social Contract* Influence the Writing of the *Declaration of Independence*?

Include the following:

Introduction and Thesis sentence
Discussion of Rights
Purpose of Governments
Citizens Responsibilities to Abusive Governments
Conclusion