

“Hamilton and Jefferson” Document Based Question
American History Grade 11 Regular Level
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Document Based Question

You will be writing an essay dealing with feelings toward establishing a new government of the United States. Read the accompanying documents and answer the questions for each document. Once you have completed the questions for each document you will be writing an essay answering the following question:

Discuss the impact of the differing views of Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton on the development of the government of the United States.

Good luck!

Document A

“A democracy is nothing more than mob rule where fifty-one percent of the people may take away the rights of the other forty nine.”

-Thomas Jefferson

“All, too, will bear in mind this sacred principle that though the will of the majority is in all cases to prevail, that will be rightful must be reasonable, that the minority possess their equal rights, which equal law must protect, and to violate would be oppression.”

-Thomas Jefferson

1. What is the attitude of Thomas Jefferson toward the majority?
2. What is democracy according to Jefferson?

Document B

“Dependence begets subservience and venality, suffocates the germ of virtue, and prepares fit tools for the designs of ambition.”

-Thomas Jefferson

3. How does Jefferson view dependence?
4. What might he be referring to in this quote?

Document C

“Experience hath shown that even under the best forms of government those entrusted with power have in time, and by slow operations, perverted it into Tyranny”.

-Thomas Jefferson

5. In the above quote, who do you believe Jefferson is referring to?
 6. What position does Jefferson fear will become full of tyranny?
 7. What earlier occurrence would lead Jefferson to be fearful of tyranny?
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Document D

"In framing a government which is to be administered by men over men the great difficulty lies in this: You must first enable the government to control the governed, and in the next place, oblige it to control itself".

-Alexander Hamilton

8. According to Hamilton, who should have the power in a government?
 9. What beliefs in government that Hamilton had might influence this quote?
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Document E

"Constitutions should consist only of general provisions, the reason is that they must necessarily be permanent, and they cannot calculate for the possible change of things".

-Alexander Hamilton

10. Why would a strong national government help to allow the constitution to change?
 11. List examples of how the constitution has changed since being written.
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Document F

"Men often oppose a thing merely because they have had no agency in planning it or because it may have been planned by those whom they dislike".

-Alexander Hamilton

"The people are turbulent and changing, they seldom judge or determine right...can a democratic assembly who annually revolve in the mass of the people be supposed steadily to pursue the public good"?

-Alexander Hamilton

12. Who might Hamilton be referring to in the first quote?
 13. How might these arguments be used to prove the arguments of the Federalists?
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Document G



14. How is Jefferson portrayed in this cartoon?
15. What is the message that is being sent in this cartoon?
16. Do you agree with the cartoon?

Now using the documents and questions provided as a guide answer the following question in essay form:

Discuss the impact of the differing views of Thomas Jefferson and Alexander Hamilton on the development of the government of the United States.

DBQ Scoring Rubric

Criteria	5	4	3	2	1	0	Score
Answers the Question	Responds directly to the question-Strong thesis	Answers the question-thesis is stated.	Addresses the question, but has weak structure and focus	Poor focus: fails to answer the question completely.	Fails to address the question. Confusing and unfocused	No attempt to address the question.	
Use of Documents	Uses documents accurately and completely.	Uses documents correctly	Uses most documents correctly but with simplistic analysis.	Some documents used correctly; some only paraphrased or misunderstood.	Fails to use documents correctly. Paraphrased or misunderstood	Ignores or misuses the documents.	
Outside Information	Cites considerable information from outside learning	Cites some relevant information from outside learning	Includes little relevant information from outside learning.	Includes little information from outside learning-what is included is irrelevant.	Includes not relevant information from beyond the documents.	Includes no information from beyond the documents.	
Understanding of Topic	Displays a thorough understanding of the topic and related issues.	Shows an understanding of the topic and related issues.	Shows basic, understanding of the topic and related issues.	Show little understanding of the topic and related issues.	Shows almost no understanding of topic or issues.	Shows no understanding.	
Use of Language	Well structured, well written. Uses proper grammar and mechanics.	Clearly written, some minor errors in writing.	Weaker organization, errors in essay form.	Poorly organized. Many errors in spelling, grammar and mechanics	Disorganized full of errors in spelling, grammar, and mechanics.	Lacks any organization. Little attempt made or blank paper	
							Total Score _____

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