

Constructed Response Questions

Reverend Charles Inglis

The True Interest of America, 1776

“I think it no difficult matter to point out many advantages which will certainly attend our reconciliation (patching up) and connection with Great Britain... By a reconciliation with Great Britain, peace... will be restored. Agriculture, commerce, and industry would resume their [usual] vigor (strength). By a connection with Great Britain, our trade would still have the protection of the greatest naval power in the world. While connected with Great Britain, we have [an abundance] on almost every article of exportation, and we may be better supplied with goods by her than we could elsewhere.

Thomas Paine

Common Sense, 1776

“I have heard it asserted by some, that as America has flourished under her former connection with Great Britain, the same connection is necessary towards her future happiness. I answer...that America would have flourished as much, and probably much more, had no European power taken any notice of her.”

“But [England] has protected us, say some. We have boasted the protection of Great Britain, without considering, that...she did not protect us from OUR ENEMIES on OUR ACCOUNT; but from HER ENEMIES on HER OWN ACCOUNT! ...Every quiet method for peace hath been ineffectual. Our prayers have been rejected with [disrespect]. Wherefore, since nothing but blows will do, for God's sake, let us come to a final separation.”

1. According to Inglis, how will making peace with England help America? [1]

2. According to Inglis, how will American trade be protected? [1]

3. What is Paine's advice to his readers? [1]

Is it REALLY Common Sense?

Directions: Read the passages taken from Thomas Paine's essay called *Common Sense*. Try and match up each with the correct explanation.

- _____ 1. The rules that we live by should be created by a consensus of the people. Why should the people follow one man who makes the laws? It's the laws that should guide us, not the man!
- _____ 2. Do you think it's a coincidence that England and America were placed 3,000 miles apart? Nature or some higher power *intended* it to be this way. England has altered those plans! We should set things back to the way they were supposed to be!
- _____ 3. The moon does not control the orbit of the Earth. So why should this be any different? Such a tiny island has no business controlling such a large continent.
- _____ 4. Now is the time for us to really think about creating our own system of rule; separate from England. Who knows if we'll have the opportunity again?
- _____ 5. We've been doing things on our own for over a century. In the beginning, we needed guidance and someone to tell us what to do. But now it's just silly to have to ask for permission and then wait for a response when we're clearly capable of handling things on our own!
- A. Small islands not capable of protecting themselves are the proper objects for kingdoms to take under their care; but there is something absurd in supposing a continent to be perpetually governed by an island. In no instance has nature made the satellite larger than its primary planet;
- B. _____ it is infinitely wiser and safer, to form a constitution of our own in a cool deliberate manner, while we have it in our power, than to trust such an interesting event to time and chance. . . .
- C. Everything that is right or natural pleads for separation. The blood of the slain, the weeping voice of nature cries, "tis time to part." Even the distance at which the Almighty has placed England and America is a strong and natural proof that the authority of the one over the other was never the design of Heaven. . . .
- D. _____ To be always running 3,000 or 4,000 miles with a tale or a petition, waiting four or five months for an answer, which, when obtained, requires five or six more to explain it in, will in a few years be looked upon as folly and childishness—there was a time when it was proper, and there is a proper time for it to cease.
- E. _____ let a crown be placed thereon, by which the world may know that so far as we approve of monarchy, that in America *the law is king*. For as in absolute governments the king is law, so in free countries the law ought to be king. . . .