Cold-Read Task

Read "Colonization and the Revolutionary War: The Declaration of Independence" by ReadWorks. Then answer the questions.

Colonization and the Revolutionary War
The Declaration of Independence

During the years right before the Revolutionary War, more and more colonists wanted independence. Patriots gave speeches urging the colonists to take up arms and fight the British tyrants.[1] Patrick Henry, a patriot from Virginia, gave a famous speech to the legislature of his state. Patrick Henry proclaimed: "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!"

As fighting from the war spread, many more colonists became convinced they needed to cut ties with Britain. They still considered themselves British, but the king was not respecting their rights. They stood together as colonists to defend themselves and their interests. Before long they would call themselves Americans.

On May 10, 1775, representatives from every colony met at the Second Continental Congress in Philadelphia. They gathered in response to the battles of Lexington and Concord. The representatives agreed the time for negotiating with Britain was over. They decided that the Congress should rule the colonies and they should declare independence. The Continental Army was formed, and George Washington was named its leader. Washington came up with a plan to battle the British troops.

Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence. It took him a little more than two weeks. Although he was only 33 years old, Jefferson eloquently[2] wrote why the colonists did not want British rule. He listed all of the

[1] tyrants - people who used their power in a cruel or unjust way
[2] eloquently - expressed in a smooth and clear way

rights that every man deserved. He wrote that Britain was denying the colonists these rights. The Declaration of Independence clarified the values of the colonists. The war was not just about taxes. It was about freedom. It was about the relationship of any government to its people. Finally, the war was about the responsibility of the government to protect the rights of the people.

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1. **Part A**

   Which of the following has the same meaning as *clarified* as it is used in paragraph 4 of the passage?

   a. made clear
   b. included
   c. compared
   d. made up

   Part B

   What evidence from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

   a. "Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence."
   b. "It took him a little more than two weeks."
   c. "He listed all the rights that every man deserved."
   d. "The war was not just about taxes. It was about freedom."

2. Which sentence from "Colonization and the Revolutionary War: The Declaration of Independence" **best** explains why the author includes Patrick Henry's words "I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty or give me death!" in paragraph 1?

   a. The author uses Henry's words as the reason that so many battles took place leading up to the Revolutionary War.
   b. The author uses Henry's words as evidence of the how Patriots convinced colonists to fight for independence.
   c. The author uses Henry's words as evidence that Henry's state legislature was against independence.
   d. The author uses Henry's words as the reason the Patriots could not break free from Britain.

3. **Part A**

   According to "Colonization and the Revolutionary War: The Declaration of Independence," which sentence **best** describes what the Second Continental Congress accomplished?

   a. They wrote and signed the Declaration of Independence.
   b. They encouraged colonists to defend themselves.
   c. They planned the battles of Lexington and Concord.
   d. The encouraged colonists to call themselves Americans.

   Part B

   What evidence from the passage **best** supports the answer to Part A?

   a. "Before long they would call themselves Americans."

b. "They gathered in response to the battles of Lexington and Concord."

c. "They decided that the Congress should rule the colonies and they should declare independence."

d. "Although he was only 33 years old, Jefferson eloquently wrote why the colonists did not want British rule."

4. Which sentence **best** describes the overall structure of "Colonization and the Revolutionary War: The Declaration of Independence"?

   a. The passage compares and contrasts the different views colonists had about the Revolutionary War.

   b. The passage describes the many problems the colonists were having with the British and then presents the Revolutionary War as a solution.

   c. The passage lists the different causes of British taxes on the colonists and then describes the effects of drafting of the Declaration of Independence.

   d. The passage describes events of the American Revolution leading up to the signing of the Declaration of Independence in chronological order.

5. **Part A**

   What is the main idea of the passage "Colonization and the Revolutionary War: The Declaration of Independence"?

   a. The Revolutionary War was fought to establish young, new leadership in America.

   b. The Revolutionary War was fought once the Declaration of Independence was written.

   c. The Revolutionary War was fought because the colonists desired freedom from British rule.

   d. The Revolutionary War was fought as a response to British taxes on colonists.

   Part B

   Which detail best supports the main idea of the passage "The Declaration of Independence"?

   a. "As fighting from the war spread, many more became convinced they needed to cut ties with Britain."

   b. "The Continental Army was formed, and George Washington was named its leader."

   c. "Thomas Jefferson drafted the Declaration of Independence."

   d. "The war was not just about taxes."

Read "The Landlord's Mistake" from Louisiana EAGLE. Then answer the questions.

Many versions exist of the following story. Some historians believe that Mr. Boyden, a hotel manager in the city of Baltimore around 1800, really did make this mistake!

The Landlord's Mistake

Thomas Jefferson played a crucial role in early American history. He wrote the Declaration of Independence, was the third president of the United States, was involved in the Louisiana Purchase of 1803, and even played a role in the Lewis and Clark expedition. In addition to his political life, he was multitalented. He switched between working as a lawyer, an architect, a paleontologist, and an inventor. (1)

Despite his many accomplishments, he generally dressed humbly, so much so that he once offended the British ambassador, who felt he was not attired appropriately for a government meeting. Other stories about Jefferson's preference for simple dress have become part of American folklore. (2)

Before becoming president, Thomas Jefferson served as John Adams's vice president. During that time, he often traveled on horseback from town to town for meetings. (3)

One day Jefferson went to Baltimore, Maryland, for a meeting. Both Jefferson and his horse were covered in mud by the time he reached the hotel where he planned to stay. A group of men were sitting by the door. (4)

"There comes old Farmer Mossback,"[3] said one of the men in the group, laughing. "He's just in from the backwoods." (5)

"It looks like he's having a hard time with that horse," said another. "I wonder where he plans to stay tonight."(6)

"Oh, anywhere will work for him," answered the landlord. "He's just a country worker. He can sleep in a barn for all I care!" (7)

The traveler was soon at the door. He was dressed plainly. With his reddish-brown hair and muddy face, he appeared to be a hard-working farmer. (8)

"May I have a room for the evening?" he asked the landlord. (9)

The landlord considered his hotel to be the best in town. He looked the traveler up and down and replied, "No, sir. Every room is full. The only place I could put you would be in the barn." (10)

[3] nickname or slang for an uneducated and old-fashioned person

"Well, then," answered the stranger, "I will see what they can do for me at the Planters' Tavern, around the corner." (11)

He then rode away. (12)

About an hour later, a well-dressed gentleman came into the hotel and said, "I wish to see Mr. Jefferson." (13)

"Mr. Jefferson!" cried the landlord. (14)

"Yes, sir. Thomas Jefferson, the vice president of the United States." (15)

"He isn't here." (16)

"Oh, but he must be. I met him as he rode into town, and he said that he intended to stop at this hotel. He has been here about an hour." (17)

"No, he hasn't. The only man that has been here looking for a room was a country fellow so covered in mud that I couldn't see the color of his coat." (18)

"Did he have reddish-brown hair, and did he ride a gray horse?" (19)

"Yes, and he was quite tall." (20)

"That was Mr. Jefferson," said the gentleman. (21)

"Mr. Jefferson!" cried the landlord. "Was that the vice president? Oh no, what have I done!" (22)

He turned to one of his workers and cried, "Get our best room ready. Clean it well!" Then he sent a servant to find Mr. Jefferson and invite him back. (23)

When the servant reached the other hotel, he found the vice president sitting with some friends. (24)

"Mr. Jefferson," he said, "I have come to say that the landlord sends his apologies. You were so covered with mud that he believed you to be one of the country farmers. If you'll come back to the hotel, you shall have the best room." (25)

"Tell the landlord," said Mr. Jefferson, "that I value his good intentions highly, but if he has no room for a dirty farmer, he shall have none for the vice president." (26)

6. Based on their words throughout the story, which statement best compares the landlord and Thomas Jefferson?
    a. The landlord believes in doing what is convenient, while Thomas Jefferson believes in living by honor.
    b. The landlord thinks people deserve second chances, but Thomas Jefferson thinks that people do not change.
    c. The landlord believes appearances are important, while Thomas Jefferson believes all people should be valued.
    d. The landlord thinks there is nothing wrong with living simply, but Thomas Jefferson feels he is too important to sleep in a barn.

7. Read this sentence from the last paragraph of "The Landlord's Mistake."

    "Tell the landlord," said Mr. Jefferson, "that I value his good **intentions** highly . . ."

    Which phrase gives the **best** definition of the word **intentions**?
    a. how someone is clothed
    b. how someone treats others
    c. what someone means to do
    d. what someone has achieved

8. **Part A**

    Which sentence **best** states a theme of "The Landlord's Mistake"?
    a. Do not refuse a kind offer.
    b. Value safety more than pride.
    c. Forgive those who show they are sorry.
    d. Do not judge others by the way they look

    Part B

    Which line from the story **best** supports the answer to Part A?
    a. "It looks like he's having a hard time with that horse."
    b. "The only place I could put you would be in the barn."
    c. "I have come to say that the landlord sends his apologies."
    d. "If he has no room for a dirty farmer, he shall have none for the vice president."

9. **Part A**

    In *Those Rebels, John and Tom*, Thomas Jefferson is described as being "impeccably dressed and very soft-spoken, with gracious manners that pleased everyone." The word *impeccably* means flawless, neat, or perfect.

Which sentence **best** explains how this account of Thomas Jefferson differs from the account in "The Landlord's Mistake"?

a. Although *Those Rebels, John and Tom* describes Thomas Jefferson's preference for simple clothes, "The Landlord's Mistake" illustrates his excellent manners and dress.

b. Although *Those Rebels, John and Tom* describes Thomas Jefferson as having excellent manners and dress, "The Landlord's Mistake" illustrates his preference for simple clothes.

c. *Those Rebels, John and Tom* emphasizes that Thomas Jefferson was polite, but "The Landlord's Mistake" shows him to be rude to others.

d. *Those Rebels, John and Tom* emphasizes that Thomas Jefferson was wealthy and liked to show off his position, but "The Landlord's Mistake" shows him to enjoy the life of a simple farmer.

Part B

Which paragraph from "The Landlord's Mistake" **best** supports the answer to Part A?

a. paragraph 2

b. paragraph 9

c. paragraph 11

d. paragraph 26

10. How do the ideas presented in the first paragraph of "The Landlord's Mistake" build on the ideas of the last paragraph of "Colonization and the Revolutionary War: The Declaration of Independence"?

a. The first paragraph in "The Landlord's Mistake" describes Thomas Jefferson's process as the writer of The Declaration of Independence then further outlines the document in detail.

b. The first paragraph in "The Landlord's Mistake" introduces Thomas Jefferson as a key figure in the battles of the American Revolution then further details his writing of The Declaration of Independence.

c. The first paragraph in "The Landlord's Mistake" introduces Thomas Jefferson as the writer of The Declaration of Independence then further details his many contributions to American history.

d. The first paragraph in "The Landlord's Mistake" describes Thomas Jefferson's presidency then further outlines his contributions to American history.

11. Write a multiparagraph essay that explains how the authors of "Colonization and the Revolutionary War: The Declaration of Independence" and "The Landlord's Mistake" use evidence to support Thomas Jefferson's beliefs about the rights of all men. Use evidence from the passage to support your response. Use the conventions of standard English.

Cold-Read Task Answer Sheet

1. _____ Part A
   _____ Part B

2. _____

3. _____ Part A
   _____ Part B

4. _____

5. _____ Part A
   _____ Part B

6. _____

7. _____

8. _____ Part A
   _____ Part B

9. _____ Part A
   _____ Part B

10. _____

11.

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