The Declaration of Independence Test

*Comprehension*

1. The beginning of the Declaration suggests that its purpose is to

a. win over the colonists’ enemies

b. explain the colonists’ actions to the world

c. give fair warning to the colonists’ enemies

d. persuade the colonists to support independence

2. According to the Declaration, the main purpose of government is to

a. protect its citizens’ rights

b. protect and encourage trade

c. maintain armies and wage war

d. maintain order among its citizens

3. According to the Declaration, the main purpose of the king’s recent actions had been to

a. increase his power in Britain

b. increase his strength of the British military

c. establish his total authority over the colonies

d. keep the colonies economically dependent on Britain

4. The longest part of the Declaration is devoted to detailing

a. the colonists’ intentions regarding the future

b. the structure a fair government should have

c. the rights the colonists demanded from Britain

d. the injuries the colonists suffered under British rule

5. When Jefferson refers to the king’s “swarms of officers,” he uses the connotation of swarms to

suggest that the officers

a. caused harm.

b. broke the law.

c. were also victims.

d. were far from home.

6. Which of the following is not a reason that Jefferson was chosen to write the first draft?

a. He was from the colony that proposed declaring American independence.

b. The other committee member preferred to work on other assignments.

c. Benjamin Franklin was laid up in bed.

7. Franklin used the words “self-evident” to replace Jefferson’s words “sacred and undeniable.” This

made the statement more

a. rational than religious

b. realistic than idealistic

c. poetic than straightforward

d. philosophical than practical

8. Which of the following changes to the Declaration were made by the Continental Congress?

a. replacing “deluge us in blood” with “destroy us”

b. deleting a section criticizing the king for the slave trade

c. using the stronger word “despotism” instead of “power”

d. adding the words “and payment” to a sentence about salaries

Quotation: What does it mean:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws for Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migration hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands. |  |
| He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power |  |
| He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within |  |

*Vocabulary*

12. A word that means the opposite of **acquiesce** is

a. provide b. disagree c. surrender

13. An example of an act of **usurpation** is

a. a duel b. a mutiny c. an election

14. Which of the following words is closest in meaning to **rectitude**?

a. strength b. patience c. goodness

15. In discussing the **tenure** of a president, one would be most likely to mention

a. an upcoming election.

b. a newspaper.

c. the White House.

16. Which of the following is it impossible to do at the same time that you **endeavor**?

a. cheat b. survive c. give up