**Period 3: Document-Based Question**

**Question: To what extent did the struggles of the new American republic create a new social, political, and economic identity between the years 1776–1801.**

**Directions:** This question is based on the accompanying documents. The documents have been edited for the purpose of this exercise. You are advised to spend 15 minutes planning and 45 minutes writing your answer**.**

In your response you should do the following.

* State a relevant thesis that directly addresses all parts of the question.
* Support the thesis or a relevant argument with evidence from all, or all but one, of the documents.
* Incorporate analysis of all, or all but one, of the documents into your argument.
* Focus your analysis of each document on at least one of the following: intended audience, purpose, historical context, and/or point of view.
* Support your argument with analysis of historical examples outside the documents.
* Connect historical phenomena relevant to your argument to broader events or processes.
* Synthesize the elements above into a persuasive essay.

**Document 1**

Source: The Virginia Declaration of Rights, 1776

Francis N. Thorpe, ed. *The Federal and State Constitutions…of the United States* (Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1909), 7:3812–3814.

1. That all men are by nature equally free and independent, and have certain inherent rights…

2. That all power is vested in, and consequently derived from, the people…

3. That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community…

5. That the legislative and executive powers of the State should be separate and distinct from the judiciary…

8. That in all capital or criminal prosecutions a man hath a right to demand the cause and nature of his accusation, to be confronted with the accusers and witnesses…

9. That excessive bail ought not to be required, nor excessive fines imposed, nor cruel and unusual punishments inflicted…

12. That the freedom of the press is one of the great bulwarks of liberty…

16. All men are equally entitled to the free exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience…

**Document 2**

Source: Letter from Abigail Adams to her son, December 1783

Charles Francis Adams, ed., *Letters of Mrs. Adams, the Wife of John Adams* (Boston: Wilkins, Carter, and Company, 1848).

The history of your own country and the late revolution are striking and recent instances of the mighty things achieved by a brave, enlightened, and hardy people, determined to be free; the very yeomanry of which, in many instances, have shown themselves superior to corruption, as Britain well knows.…Glory, my son, in a country which has given birth to characters, both in the civil and military departments, which may vie with the wisdom and valor of antiquity. As an immediate descendant of one of those characters, may you be led to an imitation of that disinterested patriotism and that noble love of your country, which will teach you to despise wealth, titles, pomp, and equipage, as mere external advantages, which cannot add to the internal excellence of your mind, or compensate for the want of integrity and virtue.

**Document 3**

Source: Records of the Constitutional Convention, 1787

Max Farrand, ed., *The Records of the Federal Convention of 1787* (New Haven: Yale University Press, 1911), 2: 364–365, 369–372.

Col. [George] Mason [of Virginia stated that]…The present question concerns not the importing states alone, but the whole Union.…Slavery discourages arts and manufactures. The poor despise labor when performed by slaves. They prevent the immigration of whites, who really enrich and strengthen a country.…Every master of slaves is born a petty tyrant. They bring the judgment of Heaven on a country. As nations cannot be rewarded or punished in the next world, they must be in this. By an inevitable chain of causes and effects, Providence punishes national sins by national calamities.…He held it essential, in every point of view, that the general government should have power to prevent the increase of slavery.

Mr. Ellsworth, as he had never owned a slave, could not judge of the effects of slavery on character. He said, however, that if it was to be considered in a moral light, we ought to go further, and free those already in the country.…As population increases, poor laborers will be so plenty as to render slaves useless.

Gen. [Charles C.] Pinckney…contended that the importation of slaves would be for the interest of the whole Union. The more slaves, the more produce to employ the carrying trade; the more consumption also; and the more of this, the more revenue for the common treasury.…[He] should consider a rejection of the [present] clause as an exclusion of South Carolina from the Union.

**Document 4**

Source: Men Serving in American Government by Net Worth, 1765–1790

Adapted from Jackson T. Main, "Government by the People: The American Revolution and the Democratization of the Legislatures," *William and Mary Quarterly*, 3rd ser., vol. 23 (1966). Reprinted by permission.

****

**Document 5**

Source: Alexander Hamilton, *The Report on Manufactures,* 1791

*Report of the Secretary of the Treasury of the United States on the Subject of Manufactures,* Presented to the House of Representatives, December 5, 1791.

Manufacturing establishments not only occasion a positive augmentation of the Produce and Revenue of the Society, but that they contribute essentially to rendering them greater than they could possibly be, without such establishments.…Not only the wealth; but the independence and security of a Country, appear to be materially connected with the prosperity of manufactures. Every nation, with a view to those great objects, ought to endeavor to possess within itself all the essentials of national supply. These comprise the means of subsistence, habitation, clothing and defense. The possession of these is necessary to the perfection of the body politic, to the safety as well as to the welfare of the society…

It is not uncommon to meet with an opinion that though the promoting of manufactures may be the interest of a part of the Union, it is contrary to that of another part. The Northern & Southern regions are sometimes represented as having adverse interests in this respect.…But it is…well established…that the aggregate prosperity of Manufactures, and the aggregate prosperity of Agriculture are intimately connected.

**Document 6**

Source: Francois Alexandre Frederic, Travels through the United States…in the Years 1795, 1796, and 1797…

François Alexandre Frédéric, Duc de la Rochefoucauld-Liancourt, *Travels through the United States of America...in the Years 1795, 1796, and 1797...,* 2 vols., trans. H. Neuman (London: T. Davison, 1799), 1: 23–24, 68; 2: 215, 671–672.

The spirit of equality is carried as far as is consistent with order in a great society. The man who is possessed of the greatest wealth, and the most happily circumstanced in every respect, shakes hands with the workman whom he met on his way.…The inferior classes of workmen…are treated with more civility, and considered by those who employ them as free men with whom they have contracted, rather than as workmen, whom they compel to labor. They are like the workmen of every class, both in town and country, much better paid than in Europe, by which they are enabled to live well.…In balls, concerts, and public amusements, these classes do not mix; and yet, except the laborer in ports, and the common sailor, everyone calls himself, and is called by others, a gentleman; a small fortune is sufficient for the assumption of this title, as it carries men from one class to another. They deceive themselves very much who think that pure republican manners prevail in America.

**Document 7**

Source: Mary Anne Radcliffe, *The Female Advocate,* 1801

*The Female Advocate,* Written by a Lady (Connecticut, 1801).

Why then may not all the seeming difference between the sexes, be imputed solely to the difference of their education and subsequent advantages?...Shall the women be kept ignorant, to render her more docile in the management of domestic concerns? How illy capable is such a person of being a companion for a man of refinement? How miserably capable of augmenting his social joys, or managing prudently the concerns of a family, or educating his children? Is it not of the utmost consequence, that the tender mind of the youth receive an early direction for future usefulness? And is it not equally true, that the first direction of a child necessarily becomes the immediate and peculiar province of the woman? And may I not ask, is not a woman of a capacious and well stored mind, a better wife, a better widow, a better mother, and a better neighbor; and shall I add, a better friend in every respect?