

# APUSH LEQ SAMPLE ESSAYS

## *Economic Causes of the American Revolution*



**LEQ PROMPT:** Evaluate the extent to which economic policy fostered change in the relationship between Great Britain and its North American colonies in the period from 1754 to 1776.

Taxation Without Representation	Control of Colonial Trade
Stamp Act	Sugar Act Townshend Acts

### SAMPLE RESPONSE A (5/6 Points)

Economic policy played a major role in increasing tensions between Great Britain and its North American colonies in the period from 1754 to 1776 because of taxation without representation and Parliament's attempts to control trade in the colonies.

Before the French and Indian War, Parliament followed a policy of salutary neglect. Although Parliament had passed the Navigation Acts to control colonial trade with mercantilism, Parliament did not enforce the Navigation Acts before the French and Indian War. This allowed the colonists to trade with whoever they wanted to trade with. After the French and Indian War, Parliament decided that the colonies should be taxed to help pay for the war.

Taxation without representation caused the colonists to protest because their rights had been violated. When Parliament passed the Stamp Act, it put a tax on legal documents and paper products in the colonies. The colonists believed that the Stamp Act was illegal because Parliament had no right to tax them. In response to the Stamp Act, colonists boycotted (refused to buy) British goods, which led to Parliament repealing the Stamp Act.

Parliament's control over colonial trade also upset the colonists because it hurt their economy. When Parliament passed the Sugar Act, they placed a tax on imported sugar from other colonies. The colonists could no longer buy the cheapest sugar. The Townshend Acts taxed imported paper, paint, and tea. The colonists objected so strongly that Parliament got rid of the Townshend Acts, but they kept the tax on tea to prove a point. By 1776, the colonists had become so resentful that they declared independence from Britain.

Economic policy played a big part in worsening the relationship between Britain and its North American colonies between 1754 and 1776 because of taxation without representation and Parliament controlling colonial trade.

#### THESIS

The thesis responds directly to the prompt, is historically defensible, and offers two clear lines of reasoning.

#### CONTEXTUALIZATION

The detailed description of salutary neglect before the French and Indian War offers useful background information that is helpful for understanding the conflict between Britain and the colonies.

#### SPECIFIC EXAMPLES (E1)

The Stamp Act, the Sugar Act, and the Townshend Acts are all accurately referenced and properly described.

#### SUPPORTS ARGUMENT (E2)

The evidence clearly supports argumentative claims (presented here in the form of topic sentences).

#### HISTORICAL REASONING

This essay clearly addresses cause-and-effect relationships, showing how the colonists' reactions to the Stamp Act and Townshend Acts influenced policy.

The thesis point was already earned at the beginning of the essay, but the thesis is restated at the end for additional clarity.

297 Words

## SAMPLE RESPONSE B (3/6 Points)

### Specific Evidence

Sugar Act

Stamp Act

Townshend Acts

Economic policy played a major role in increasing tensions between Great Britain and its North American colonies in the period from 1754 to 1776 because the British Parliament taxed the colonies without representation and controlled their trade.

When Parliament passed the Sugar Act, they placed a tax on imported sugar from other colonies. The colonists could no longer buy the cheapest sugar. When Parliament passed the Stamp Act, it put a tax on legal documents and paper products in the colonies. The colonists believed that the Stamp Act was illegal because Parliament had no right to tax them. In response to the Stamp Act, colonists boycotted (refused to buy) British goods, which led to Parliament repealing the Stamp Act. The Townshend Acts taxed imported paper, paint, and tea. The colonists objected so strongly that Parliament got rid of the Townshend Acts, but they kept the tax on tea to prove a point. By 1776, the colonists had become so resentful that they declared independence from Britain.

Economic policies strained the relationship between Britain and the Thirteen Colonies from 1754 to 1776 because of Parliament's unfair taxation policies and mercantilist trade policies.

190 Words

### **THESIS**

The thesis responds directly to the prompt, is historically defensible, and offers two clear lines of reasoning.

### **SPECIFIC EXAMPLES (E1)**

The Stamp Act, the Sugar Act, and the Townshend Acts are all accurately referenced and properly described.

### **HISTORICAL REASONING**

This essay clearly addresses **cause-and-effect** relationships, showing how the colonists' reactions to the Stamp Act and Townshend Acts influenced policy.

The thesis point was already earned at the beginning of the essay, but the thesis is restated at the end for additional clarity.

**SAMPLE RESPONSE C (6/6 Points)**

**[Complexity via Effective Use of Evidence]**

This essay is another version of **Sample Response A** with more supporting evidence added.

Taxation Without Representation	Control of Colonial Trade
Stamp Act Intolerable Acts (Martial Law)	Sugar Act Townshend Acts Tea Act (British East India Company) Intolerable Acts (B. Port Act)

Economic policy played a major role in increasing tensions between Great Britain and its North American colonies in the period from 1754 to 1776 because of taxation without representation and Parliament’s attempts to control trade in the colonies.

Before the French and Indian War, Parliament followed a policy of salutary neglect. Although Parliament had passed the Navigation Acts to control colonial trade with mercantilism, Parliament did not enforce the Navigation Acts before the French and Indian War. This allowed the colonists to trade with whoever they wanted to trade with. After the French and Indian War, Parliament decided that the colonies should be taxed to help pay for the war.

Taxation without representation caused the colonists to protest because their rights had been violated. When Parliament passed the Stamp Act, it put a tax on legal documents and paper products in the colonies. The colonists believed that the Stamp Act was illegal because Parliament had no right to tax them. In response to the Stamp Act, colonists boycotted (refused to buy) British goods, which led to Parliament repealing the Stamp Act. One of the Intolerable Acts was the Massachusetts Government Act, which placed Massachusetts Colony under martial law (military rule), with a general in charge of the colony instead of the assembly elected by the people. Without a representative assembly, the people of Massachusetts could not object to bad economic policies.

Parliament’s control over colonial trade also upset the colonists because it hurt their economy. When Parliament passed the Sugar Act, they placed a tax on imported sugar from other colonies. The colonists could no longer buy the cheapest sugar. The Townshend Acts taxed imported paper, paint, and tea. The colonists objected so strongly that Parliament got rid of the Townshend Acts, but they kept the tax on tea to prove a point. By 1776, the colonists had become so resentful that they declared independence from Britain. When Parliament passed the Tea Act, they gave the British East India Company a special tax exemption so that their tea was cheaper than smuggled tea. This resulted in the Boston Tea Party, in which members of the Sons of Liberty destroyed the East India Company’s tea by throwing it into the Boston Harbor. Parliament responded to the Boston Tea Party with the Intolerable Acts, which included the Boston Port Act, which closed the Port of Boston until the colonists paid for the tea. This weakened the economy of Massachusetts, which depended on trade. These economic policies hurt the colonists to the point that they began planning a revolution.

Economic policy played a big part in worsening the relationship between Britain and its North American colonies between 1754 and 1776 because of taxation without representation and Parliament controlling colonial trade.

457 Words

**THESIS**

The thesis responds directly to the prompt, is historically defensible, and offers two clear lines of reasoning.

**CONTEXTUALIZATION**

The detailed description of salutary neglect before the French and Indian War offers useful background information that is helpful for understanding the conflict between Britain and the colonies.

**SPECIFIC EXAMPLES (E1)**

The Stamp Act, the Sugar Act, and the Townshend Acts are all accurately referenced and properly described.

**SUPPORTS ARGUMENT (E2)**

The evidence clearly supports argumentative claims (presented here in the form of topic sentences).

**HISTORICAL REASONING**

This essay clearly addresses cause-and-effect relationships, showing how the colonists’ reactions to the Stamp Act and Townshend Acts influenced policy.

**COMPLEX UNDERSTANDING**

Over four pieces of evidence were presented, with each piece of evidence clearly supporting an argument that responds to the prompt.

The thesis point was already earned at the beginning of the essay, but the thesis is restated at the end for additional clarity.

**SAMPLE RESPONSE D (6/6 Points)**

**[Complexity via Sophisticated Argumentation]**

This essay is another version of **Sample Response A** with more complex argumentation.

Taxation Without Representation	Control of Colonial Trade	British Troops in the Colonies
Stamp Act	Sugar Act Townshend Acts	Quartering Act Intolerable Acts (Martial Law) Lexington and Concord

Economic policy played a major role in increasing tensions between Great Britain and its North American colonies in the period from 1754 to 1776 because of taxation without representation and Parliament’s attempts to control trade in the colonies. The presence of British troops in the colonies also increased tensions by provoking violence that led to the Revolutionary War.

Before the French and Indian War, Parliament followed a policy of salutary neglect. Although Parliament had passed the Navigation Acts to control colonial trade with mercantilism, Parliament did not enforce the Navigation Acts before the French and Indian War. This allowed the colonists to trade with whoever they wanted to trade with. After the French and Indian War, Parliament decided that the colonies should be taxed to help pay for the war.

Taxation without representation caused the colonists to protest because their rights had been violated. When Parliament passed the Stamp Act, it put a tax on legal documents and paper products in the colonies. The colonists believed that the Stamp Act was illegal because Parliament had no right to tax them. In response to the Stamp Act, colonists boycotted (refused to buy) British goods, which led to Parliament repealing the Stamp Act.

Parliament’s control over colonial trade also upset the colonists because it hurt their economy. When Parliament passed the Sugar Act, they placed a tax on imported sugar from other colonies. The colonists could no longer buy the cheapest sugar. The Townshend Acts taxed imported paper, paint, and tea. The colonists objected so strongly that Parliament got rid of the Townshend Acts, but they kept the tax on tea to prove a point. By 1776, the colonists had become so resentful that they declared independence from Britain.

The presence of British troops also led to conflicts between Britain and the colonies, which led to violence and war. Parliament passed a Quartering Act that required colonists to provide housing for British soldiers they did not want in the colonies. The Intolerable Acts put the Massachusetts Colony under military rule. Britain closed down the colony’s representative assembly. In 1775, British troops faced Minutemen in the Battles of Lexington and Concord, which began the Revolutionary War.

Economic policies about taxation and trade played a big part in worsening the relationship between Britain and its North American colonies. The presence of British troops in the colonies also worsened the relationship because it led to violence.

**COMPLEX THESIS**

The thesis responds directly to the prompt, is historically defensible, and offers two clear lines of reasoning. It also offers an expanded perspective on the historical development.

**CONTEXTUALIZATION**

The detailed description of salutary neglect before the French and Indian War offers useful background information that is helpful for understanding the conflict between Britain and the colonies.

**SPECIFIC EXAMPLES (E1)**

The Stamp Act, the Sugar Act, and the Townshend Acts are all accurately referenced and properly described.

**SUPPORTS ARGUMENT (E2)**

The evidence clearly supports argumentative claims (presented here in the form of topic sentences).

**HISTORICAL REASONING**

This essay clearly addresses cause-and-effect relationships, showing how the colonists’ reactions to the Stamp Act and Townshend Acts influenced policy.

**COMPLEX UNDERSTANDING**

The discussion of conflicts between colonists and British troops offers another perspective outside of economic causes, presenting a more complex and sophisticated perspective on these historical developments.

The thesis point was already earned at the beginning of the essay, but the thesis is restated at the end for additional clarity.

398 Words