Costs of Control

Trace how British decisions sparked colonial disagreements.

SS24.US1.1a "Explain how British policies and actions from 1754 to 1775 created political and economic disagreements with American colonists."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline three British policies or actions, then number each one and circle the colonial concern it caused. Look for both economic concerns about money or work and political concerns about who had authority.

Who Should Decide?

1. Fighting in North America began in 1754, and Britain won the wider Seven Years' War in 1763. Officials faced war debts and the cost of guarding new territory. They wanted colonists to help pay for the empire and avoid new fighting on the frontier. The Proclamation of 1763 barred colonial settlement west of the Appalachian Mountains, even though some colonists had hoped to farm that land. Settlers and land speculators saw lost opportunities, while critics questioned the Crown's right to control where they could move. Britain viewed the boundary as a way to reduce conflict with Native nations and make defense less costly.

2. In 1765 Parliament passed the Stamp Act, requiring paid stamps on newspapers, legal papers, and other printed items. Printers and lawyers faced added costs, but the protest reached beyond their wallets. Colonists argued that only their elected colonial assemblies could tax them because they elected no members of Parliament. Parliament insisted it could legislate for the entire empire. After boycotts and protests, Parliament repealed the Stamp Act in 1766, yet declared its authority to make laws for the colonies. Later, the Townshend duties taxed imported goods such as glass and paper, prompting another round of boycotts.

3. Parliament's Tea Act of 1773 gave the East India Company special advantages in selling tea to the colonies while keeping a tax on tea. Cheaper tea did not settle the dispute: many colonists saw the remaining tax as a test of Parliament's authority. Protesters dumped tea into Boston Harbor. In 1774 Parliament closed Boston's port until the tea was paid for and restricted Massachusetts's self-government through measures colonists called the Intolerable Acts. Closing the port threatened dockworkers and merchants; the political restrictions raised fears that local rights could be taken away. Colonial delegates met to coordinate a response.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. How did the Proclamation of 1763 create both an economic and a political disagreement?

2. How did the Stamp Act turn a new expense into a debate about political authority?

3. How did colonists use boycotts to challenge two British tax policies in the passage?

4. How did Parliament's response to the Boston Tea Party create both an economic and a political objection?

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

Write a letter from a colonial merchant to a member of Parliament in 1774. Explain how two different British actions in the passage caused an economic concern and a political concern, then propose a specific compromise that could reduce the conflict.

ANSWER KEY

Costs of Control

GRADE 10 · SS24.US1.1a

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline three British policies or actions, then number each one and circle the colonial concern it caused. Look for both economic concerns about money or work and political concerns about who had authority. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	How did the Proclamation of 1763 create both an economic and a political disagreement?	**It blocked settlers and land speculators from opportunities west of the Appalachian Mountains. Critics also questioned the Crown's authority to limit where colonists could move.**
2	How did the Stamp Act turn a new expense into a debate about political authority?	**The stamps added costs, but colonists argued that only their elected assemblies could tax them because they had no elected members in Parliament.**
3	How did colonists use boycotts to challenge two British tax policies in the passage?	**Colonists boycotted goods after the Stamp Act and again after the Townshend duties. The boycotts protested taxes imposed by Parliament.**
4	How did Parliament's response to the Boston Tea Party create both an economic and a political objection?	**Closing Boston's port threatened merchants and dockworkers, while restrictions on Massachusetts's self-government raised fears about the loss of local rights.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Dear Member of Parliament, The Townshend duties raised the cost of goods I sell in Boston. Our boycotts showed how these taxes harmed trade. Parliament's decision to close Boston's port now keeps ships from unloading, leaving merchants and dockworkers without work. Its limits on Massachusetts's government also suggest our elected representatives cannot protect our rights. I ask you to reopen the port and allow our elected assembly to approve taxes for colonial defense. Britain would receive support for its costs without taking away our local voice.

Accept other supported policy-and-consequence links. For the letter, look for two distinct British actions, an economic concern, a political concern, and a specific proposed compromise.