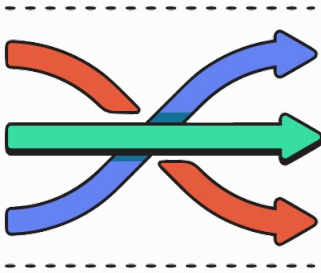


Formative Assessment:

Continuity and Change over Time



Thinking historically means identifying and exploring the reasons behind both what has changed and what has stayed the same within a given time period or around a specific historical event.

Directions: Read the following source(s). Then, answer the questions on continuity and change over time that follow. The multiple choice questions for this formative assessment are Weighted Multiple Choice (WMC) Questions. This means that there is only one *incorrect* answer, but the other 3 choices are weighted. The *best* answer is 3 points, the *second-best* answer is 2 points, and the *third-best* answer is 1 point. The *incorrect* answer is 0 points.

Formative Assessment: Continuity and Change Over Time

The Declaration of Independence, ratified July 4, 1776. [Library of Congress](#).

Source: Elizabeth Cady Stanton, "Declaration of Sentiments," at the Seneca Falls Convention, New York, July 1848. [Library of Congress](#).

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another... they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one portion of the family of man to assume among the people of the earth a position different from that which they have hitherto occupied, but one to which the laws of nature and of nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes that impel them to such a course.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed, That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it...

We hold these truths to be self-evident: that all men and women are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; that to secure these rights governments are instituted, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. Whenever any form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of those who suffer from it to refuse allegiance to it, and to insist upon the institution of a new government...

The history of mankind is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations on the part of man toward woman... To prove this, let facts be submitted to a candid world.

We, therefore, the Representatives of the United States of America... solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are Absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown...

He has never permitted her to exercise her inalienable right to the elective franchise...

Now, in view of this entire disfranchisement of one-half the people of this country, their social and religious degradation,—in view of the unjust laws above mentioned, and because women do feel themselves aggrieved, oppressed, and fraudulently deprived of their most sacred rights, we insist that they have immediate admission to all the rights and privileges which belong to them as citizens of these United States.



Formative Assessment: Continuity and Change Over Time

1. Which belief about freedom found in both the Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of Sentiments is the *best* example of a **continuity** in what freedom meant to Americans?
 - A. Freedom is defined by having rights like life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.
 - B. Freedom is essential because all men are created equal.
 - C. Freedom means doing whatever a person wants.
 - D. Freedom means that if a government does not secure its citizens rights, they have the right to change it.

2. Justify your answer in the space below.

3. Which belief about freedom in both the Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of Sentiments is the *best* example of a **change** in what freedom meant to Americans?

- A. At America's founding, freedom meant following rules, but in the mid 19th century, it meant following one's gut.
- B. At America's founding, certain freedoms were only guaranteed to men, but in the mid-19th century, women demanded those same freedoms.
- C. At America's founding, if people didn't feel free, they tried to abolish the government, but in the mid-19th century, they were satisfied with simply changing the government.
- D. In 1776, the colonies felt that their freedoms were taken away by Great Britain, and in 1848, women felt that their freedoms were taken away by men.

4. Justify your answer in the space below.



Teacher Key for Formative Assessment: Continuity and Change Over Time

1. Which belief about freedom found in both the Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of Sentiments is the *best* example of a **continuity** in what freedom meant to Americans?

- A. Freedom is defined by having rights like life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. **(3 points)**
- B. Freedom is essential because all men are created equal. **(1 point)**
- C. Freedom means doing whatever a person wants. **(0 points)**
- D. Freedom means that if a government does not secure its citizens rights, they have the right to change it. **(2 points)**

2. Justify your answer in the space below.

Both documents clearly state that Choice A is true freedom, so it is worth 3 points. Choice D is also a true statement, but slightly incomplete, since abolishing the government was an option in 1776. Choice B is a true statement, but not fully a continuity, since it excludes women. Lastly, Choice C is not represented in either document, so is worth 0 points.

3. Which belief about freedom in both the Declaration of Independence and the Declaration of Sentiments is the *best* example of a **change** in what freedom meant to Americans?

- A. At America's founding, freedom meant following rules, but in the mid 19th century, it meant following one's gut. **(0 points)**
- B. At America's founding, certain freedoms were only guaranteed to men, but in the mid-19th century, women demanded those same freedoms. **(3 points)**
- C. At America's founding, if people didn't feel free, they tried to abolish the government, but in the mid-19th century, they were satisfied with simply changing the government. **(1 point)**
- D. In 1776, the colonies felt that their freedoms were taken away by Great Britain, and in 1848, women felt that their freedoms were taken away by men. **(2 points)**

4. Justify your answer in the space below.

The Declaration of Sentiments purposely uses the language of the Declaration of Independence to advocate for women's rights, so Choice B is the *best* example, worth 3 points. Choice D is also true, but since Choice B represents the central idea of the Declaration of Sentiments, Choice D is worth 2 points. Choice C is also true, but is more of a supporting idea rather than a central, so is worth 1 point. Lastly, Choice A is worth 0 points since this idea appears nowhere in either document.



1. Weighted Multiple Choice – Continuity

3 points (Choice A)	2 points (Choice D)	1 point (Choice B)	0 points (Choice C)
Subtotal: _____ / 3			

2. Short Answer: Justify Your Answer

3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Student thoroughly justifies their choice of the <i>best</i> example of a continuity—which is worth three points as shown on the teacher key.	Student thoroughly justifies their choice of either the 1 or 2 point option from the WMC question. OR Student's justification of the 3 point option needs deeper analysis.	Student's justification of their choice (either the 1 or 2 point option) lacks deep analysis.	Student either makes no attempt to justify their choice OR try to justify the 0 point option.
Subtotal: _____ / 3			

3. Weighted Multiple Choice – Change

3 points (Choice B)	2 points (Choice D)	1 point (Choice C)	0 points (Choice A)
Subtotal: _____ / 3			

4. Short Answer: Justify Your Answer

3 points	2 points	1 point	0 points
Student thoroughly justifies their choice of the <i>best</i> example of a change—which is worth three points as shown on the teacher key.	Student thoroughly justifies their choice of either the 1 or 2 point option from the WMC question. OR Student's justification of the 3 point option needs deeper analysis.	Student's justification of their choice (either the 1 or 2 point option) lacks deep analysis.	Student either makes no attempt to justify their choice OR try to justify the 0 point option.
Subtotal: _____ / 3			

Total: _____ / 12

