

READING – SECTION C

This test section contains one reading selection with a total of four multiple-choice questions and one open-response (short-answer) question. Please mark your answers for the multiple-choice questions in the spaces provided on page _ of your Student Response Booklet (Reading). Mark only one answer for each question. If you do not know the answer, make your best guess. DO NOT WRITE ANY ANSWERS IN THIS TEST BOOKLET. WHEN YOU FINISH, DO NOT WORK ON ANY OTHER TEST SECTION.

The following speech by Patrick Henry was presented to the Virginia Legislature in 1775. Read the speech to learn about its purpose and Patrick Henry's opinions. Then answer the questions that follow.

SPEECH TO THE SECOND VIRGINIA CONVENTION

I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!

Patrick Henry (1736-1799) was a leading patriot in the revolutionary cause. Born in Virginia, he was one of colonial Virginia's most successful lawyers, noted for his quick wit and oratorical skills. Elected to the Virginia legislature in 1763, he became an outspoken advocate of the rights of the colonies. In 1765, speaking in opposition to the Stamp Act, Henry said, "Caesar had his Brutus, Charles the First his Cromwell, and George III ..." (he was then interrupted by cries of "Treason! Treason!") "... *may profit by their example. If this be treason, make the most of it.*"

Henry played a prominent role in the growing movement for independence. He was a member of the first Virginia Committee of Correspondence and a delegate to the Continental Congresses of 1774 and 1775. His most famous speech, excerpted below, was delivered to the second Virginia Convention on March 23, 1775, at Saint John's Church in Richmond, Virginia. The speech was a powerful argument on behalf of resolutions to equip the Virginia militia to fight against the British.

Henry was the first governor of the state of Virginia, and he served the state and the nation in many other public positions. His lasting fame, however, derives from this fiery speech in 1775, with its world-famous peroration.

...**I**t is natural for man to indulge in the illusions of hope. We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth, and listen to the song of that siren, till she transforms us into beasts. Is this the part of wise men, engaged in a great and arduous struggle for liberty? Are we disposed to be of the number of those who, having eyes, see not, and having ears, hear not, the things which so nearly concern their temporal salvation? For my part, whatever anguish of spirit it may cost, I am willing to know the whole truth; to know the worst and to provide for it.

I have but one lamp by which my feet are guided; and that is the lamp of experience. I know of no way of judging of the future but by the past. And judging by the past, I wish to know what there has been in the conduct of the British ministry for the last ten years to justify those hopes with which gentlemen have been pleased to solace themselves and the House? Is it that insidious smile with which our petition has been lately

received? Trust it not, sir; it will prove a snare to your feet. Suffer not yourselves to be betrayed with a kiss. Ask yourselves how this gracious reception of our petition comports with these warlike preparations which cover our waters and darken our land. Are fleets and armies necessary to a work of love and reconciliation? Have we shown ourselves so unwilling to be reconciled, that force must be called in to win back our love? Let us not deceive ourselves, sir. These are the implements of war and subjugation; the last arguments to which kings resort. I ask gentlemen, sir, what means this martial array, if its purpose be not to force us to submission? Can gentlemen assign any other possible motives for it? Has Great Britain any enemy, in this quarter of the world, to call for all this accumulation of navies and armies? No, sir, she has none. They are meant for us; they can be meant for no other. They are sent over to bind and rivet upon us those chains which the British ministry have been so long forging. And what have we to oppose to them? Shall we try

argument? Sir, we have been trying that for the last ten years. Have we anything new to offer on the subject? Nothing. We have held the subject up in every light of which it is capable; but it has been all in vain. Shall we resort to entreaty and humble supplication? What terms shall we find which have not been already exhausted? Let us not, I beseech you, sir, deceive ourselves longer. Sir, we have done everything that could be done to avert the storm which is now coming on. We have petitioned; we have remonstrated; we have supplicated; we have prostrated ourselves before the tyrannical hands of the ministry and parliament. Our petitions have been slighted; our remonstrances have produced additional violence and insult; our supplications have been disregarded; and we have been spurned, with contempt, from the foot of the throne. In vain, after these things, may we indulge the fond hope of peace and reconciliation. There is no longer any room for hope. If we wish to be free—if we mean to preserve inviolate those inestimable privileges for which we have been so long contending—if we mean not basely to abandon the noble struggle in which we have been so long engaged, and which we have pledged ourselves never to abandon until the glorious object of our contest shall be obtained, we must fight! I repeat it, sir, we must fight! An appeal to arms and to the God of Hosts is all that is left us!

They tell us, sir, that we are weak; unable to cope with so formidable an adversary. But when shall we be stronger? Will it be the next week, or the next year? Will it be when we are totally disarmed, and when a

British guard shall be stationed in every house? Shall we gather strength by irresolution and inaction? Shall we acquire the means of effectual resistance by lying supinely on our backs, and hugging the delusive phantom of hope, until our enemies shall have bound us hand and foot? Sir, we are not weak, if we make proper use of the means which the God of nature hath placed in our power. Three millions of people, armed in the holy cause of liberty, and in such a country as that which we possess, are invincible by any force which our enemy can send against us. Besides, sir, we shall not fight our battles alone. There is a just God who presides over the destinies of nations; and who will raise friends to fight our battles for us. The battle, sir, is not to the strong alone; it is to the vigilant, the active, the brave. Besides, sir, we have no election. If we were base enough to desire it, it is now too late to retire from the contest. There is no retreat but in submission and slavery! Our chains are forged! Their clanking may be heard on the plains of Boston! The war is inevitable—and let it come! I repeat it, sir; let it come!

It is vain, sir, to extenuate the matter. Gentlemen may cry peace, peace—but there is no peace. The war is actually begun! The next gale that sweeps from the North will bring to our ears the clash of resounding arms! Our brethren are already in the field! Why stand we here idle? What is it that gentlemen wish? What would they have? Is life so dear, or peace so sweet, as to be purchased at the price of chains and slavery? Forbid it, Almighty God! I know not what course others may take; but as for me, give me liberty, or give me death!

Mark your answer choices for multiple-choice questions 26 through 29 in the spaces provided on page _ of your Student Response Booklet.

26. The purpose of the series of rhetorical questions Patrick Henry uses in paragraph 2 is to
- A. provoke arguments against resistance.
 - B. point out the necessity of war.
 - C. gather support for a delay in fighting.
 - D. argue for a retreat from confrontation.
27. Which statement made by Patrick Henry is a fact?
- A. "There is no longer any room for hope."
 - B. "We are apt to shut our eyes against a painful truth."
 - C. "We have done everything that could be done..."
 - D. "The war is actually begun."

28. In his speech, Patrick Henry
- A. urges the colonists to fight against oppression.
 - B. urges the colonists to maintain the peace.
 - C. encourages the colonists to have hope.
 - D. encourages the colonists to be religious.
29. Which idea in Patrick Henry's speech is an **opinion**?
- A. Americans must fight oppression.
 - B. Americans number three million.
 - C. The British have been unreceptive to petitions.
 - D. The British have been building up military forces.

Read all parts of the question before you begin. Write your answer to open-response question 30 in the space provided on page _ of your Student Response Booklet (Reading). DO NOT WRITE ANY ANSWERS IN THIS TEST BOOKLET.

30. In 1775, Patrick Henry made his speech to his audience of Virginia legislators to convince them that Virginia should join the War of Independence.
- a. Identify and discuss **three** main points Henry uses to support his argument.
 - b. Explain why these points were appropriate to convince his audience to join the war.

Use information from the speech to support your discussion.

PLEASE STOP!

17

DO NOT GO ON TO THE NEXT PAGE.

THIS TEST FORM RELEASED FOR SCHOOL USE SPRING 1999.