

## DECISION TIME (SAMPLE RESPONSES)

### Patriot, Loyalist, or Neutral? You decide!

#### Colonist A

Colonist A is a poor farmer in the Hudson Valley of New York. He has paid little attention to the trouble brewing in the colonies, as his primary concern is his daily struggle to maintain his farm and support his family. Recently, his problems have worsened; his landowner, a Loyalist, has had financial troubles and raised Colonist A's rent three times in the last five months to offset his debts. Colonist A barely earns enough from selling his crops to pay the original rent, and with the increase, he now faces eviction. He and his wife, with their six children, fear they will have nowhere to go if forced to leave their farm.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

#### *Reason for Decision:*

*This colonist deals with the day-to-day struggles of farming and is unaware of the issues of rebellion, so he might be Neutral. However, if the high rent imposed by his Loyalist landowner drives him to frustration, he may start sympathizing with the Patriots as a means to challenge his landlord's authority.*

#### Colonist B

Colonist B is a wealthy woman from New York City. Her husband's business brings substantial wealth and honor to the family. She often claims to be related to several members of the British House of Lords. She worries about the violence from mobs known as the Sons of Liberty and fears that her family's wealth and connections to Britain may make them targets.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

#### *Reason for Decision:*

*Colonist B is likely a Loyalist due to her family's wealth and connections to the British House of Lords. She perceives the Patriots as unruly "mobs" and fears for her family's safety, aligning her loyalty with Britain for security.*

### Colonist C

Colonist C is a wealthy tea merchant in Boston whose primary goal is to make money, even if it means breaking the law. Since the Townshend Acts placed a tax on tea, Colonist C has been illegally importing tea from the Dutch. His ships frequently hide from the British navy and customs officials who can board his vessels at any time. Recently, he was caught smuggling tea, but he managed to bribe the official. However, friends have warned him that the Royal Governor of Massachusetts has issued an arrest warrant, and they advise him to go into hiding.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

*Reason for Decision:*

**Answers may vary. Colonist C could be Neutral, as he seems solely focused on profit from his tea trade, even if it means defying British laws. Alternatively, he might lean toward the Patriots because he is willing to defy British taxes by smuggling tea and avoiding customs officials.**

### Colonist D

Colonist D is a merchant from rural Virginia who strictly follows British laws, selling all of his goods, mainly tobacco, to Britain. He lives an extravagant lifestyle, spending heavily on the finest clothes and furnishings from Europe. He was educated in Britain and hopes to send his son there for what he considers a proper education. Due to his lavish lifestyle, he is in heavy debt to several British banks and fears foreclosure on his property.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

*Reason for Decision: Answers may vary. Colonist D seems to be a Loyalist due to his education in Britain and desire for his son to study there as well. However, if his debt situation worsens and British banks threaten to foreclose his property, he may reconsider his loyalty.*

### Colonist E

Colonist E, originally from Germany, lives on the Pennsylvania frontier. He decided to move his family to the fertile Ohio Valley, planning to settle near a British fort for protection from Native American tribes. However, as they moved towards the Ohio Valley, British soldiers informed him that the Proclamation of 1763 prohibits this migration.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

*Reason for Decision:*

*Answers may vary. Colonist E may be Neutral, as he lives on the frontier where talk of rebellion might be less common. However, the British restriction on his settlement in the Ohio Valley could push him toward the Patriots if he feels restricted by British policies.*

### Colonist F

Colonist F is a merchant in New York City whose business imports products from Europe, especially Britain. He is secretly concerned about recent talks of independence, fearing that an independent America couldn't protect his ships at sea, unlike the British navy, which currently escorts colonial ships across the Atlantic to protect them from pirates. Since the Townshend Acts, the Sons of Liberty have pressured store owners to remove British goods from their shelves. After his friend was attacked by a mob for selling British products, Colonist F joined the boycotts.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

*Reason for Decision:*

*Answers may vary. Colonist F might be a Loyalist or Neutral. He relies on British naval protection for his business and fears the Patriots' influence. Although he complies with Patriot-led boycotts, he does so more out of fear than true support for independence.*

### Colonist G

Colonist G lives near Boston's waterfront. With little money and little interest in politics, he works on the docks and spends his evenings playing cards in local taverns. His toughness has caught the eye of the Sons of Liberty, who have tried to recruit him for months. While he has accepted their rum and ale, he has refused to join them. Recently, Colonist G lost his job due to the British passing the Intolerable Acts, which closed Boston Harbor to trade.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

*Reason for Decision:*

*Answers may vary. Colonist G might be Neutral, as he shows little interest in politics and has refused to join the Sons of Liberty. However, losing his job due to the Intolerable Acts could drive him to support the Patriots if he sees it as a way to regain his livelihood.*

### Colonist H

Colonist H owns a tobacco plantation and practices law in the Virginia colony. Often, wages are paid in tobacco, typically two pennies per pound. Due to Virginia's harsh winters, tobacco crops are scarce. The British government has raised the price of tobacco per pound against the wishes of the Virginia House of Burgesses, leading some ministers in the colony to demand wages at the higher price. Colonist H opposes this and has made a speech in the House of Burgesses protesting the unfair price imposed by the king.

Patriot

Loyalist

Neutral

*Reason for Decision:*

*Answers may vary. Colonist H is likely a Patriot, as he publicly opposes the British-imposed price increase on tobacco, which was done without representation. His willingness to speak against British policies shows his growing alignment with the Patriot cause for fair representation.*