

Jefferson vs. Hamilton: Round One

Directions: Read each passage and then answer the question on the left.

Inference Question	Primary Source Quote
1. Is Hamilton for or against debt? Why or why not?	"As on the one hand, the necessity for borrowing in particular emergencies cannot be doubted, so on the other, it is equally evident that to be able to borrow upon good terms, it is essential that the credit of a nation should be well established." ~Alexander Hamilton
2. Is Hamilton for or against taxes? Why or why not?	"As to Taxes, they are evidently inseparable from Government. It is impossible without them to pay the debts of the nation, to protect it from foreign danger, or to secure individuals from lawless violence..." ~Alexander Hamilton
3. Does Hamilton favor a standing army? Why or why not?	"If the federal government can command the aid of the militia in those emergencies which call for the military arm in support of the civil magistrate, it can the better dispense with the employment of a different kind of force. If it cannot avail itself of the former, it will be obliged to recur to the latter. To render an army unnecessary will be a more certain method of preventing its existence than a thousand prohibitions upon paper." ~Alexander Hamilton
4. Why do governments exist according to Hamilton?	"That the existence of the house of commons depends upon the people's right to share in the legislature; which is exercised, by means of electing the members of the house. That the end and intention of this right is, to preserve the life, property and liberty of the subject, from the encroachments of oppression and tyranny." ~Alexander Hamilton
5. According to Jefferson, where do the people get their rights?	We are "free people claiming their rights, as derived from the laws of nature, and not as the gift of their chief magistrate." ~Thomas Jefferson
6. According to Hamilton, where do governments get their authority to rule?	"Parliament may acquire an incidental influence over others; but this must be by their own free consent. For without this, any power it might exercise would be mere usurpation, and by no means a just authority." ~Alexander Hamilton
7. According to Jefferson, did the Constitution move America towards monarchy or democracy?	"Experience concurs with reason in concluding that the first magistrate will always be re-elected if the constitution permits it. He is then an officer for life." ~Thomas Jefferson
8. Would Jefferson favor or disapprove of acquiring land in the West?	"I think our governments will remain virtuous for many centuries; as long as they are chiefly agricultural; and this will be as long as there shall be vacant lands in any part of America." ~Thomas Jefferson
9. According to Hamilton, who should have the power—the majority or the minority?	"The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right." ~Alexander Hamilton
10. According to Hamilton, should the government move towards monarchical aristocracy or democracy?	"Give therefore to the first class a distinct, permanent share in the government. They will check the unsteadiness of the second; and as they cannot receive any advantage by change, they will therefore maintain good government." ~Alexander Hamilton