

Stamping Out Free Speech?



The 1765 Stamp Act taxed paper goods in the colonies. Many colonists saw the tax as a deliberate attack on the development of colonial business, political power, and press—even though England may not have intended it as such. Answer the following questions about the Stamp Act.

1. Under the Stamp Act, colonists had to pay new fees in order to:

- Have a letter notarized
- Purchase a slave
- Marry
- Graduate from a college

2. A number of newspapers either chose, or were forced, to shut down because:

- No stamps were available to purchase
- They supported colonial opposition to the Stamp Act
- They had to wait on stamped paper to arrive from England
- All of the above

3. All of the following were taxed except:

- Playing cards
- Books
- Indentured servitude forms
- Almanacs

4. On May 30, 1765, the Virginia House of Burgesses passed a set of resolutions objecting to the Stamp Act. How many resolutions were there?

- Ten
- Four
- Seven
- Five

Sources:

Mellen, Roger P. *The Origins of a Free Press in Prerevolutionary Virginia: Creating a Culture of Political Dissent*. Lewiston, NY: Edwin Mellen, 2009.

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