

Name:
Period:

Contrasting the Ideals of Hamilton and Jefferson

Use Hamilton and Jefferson handouts along with class materials to complete the following chart.

Issue	Hamilton	Jefferson
Nature of Human Beings		
Best Type of Government		
View on the Constitution		
Political Party and Its Ideals		
Ideal Economy		

Discussion Questions

Use the following chart to answer the following discussion questions. Support all answers and provide reasoning.

Nature of Human Beings

Consider Hamilton's attitudes toward the "common man," do you think he would favor a strong central government or a government that distributed power among the states and the people?

What dangers did Jefferson see in a small group of people controlling the government?

Did Jefferson favor a strong central government or a government distributed power among states and the people?

Best Type of Government

What type of governmental system did Hamilton support?

What were Jefferson's feelings about the Articles of Confederation?

View on the Constitution

Did Hamilton support a "loose" or "strict" interpretation of the Constitution?

What concerns did Jefferson have about the Constitution?

Did Jefferson support a "loose" or "strict" interpretation of the Constitution?

Political Party and Its Ideals

What were the views of the Federalists?

What were the views of the Democratic Republicans?

Ideal Economy

What did Hamilton believe was best for the American economy?

How was Jefferson's economic philosophy similar to his political philosophy?

Viewpoints of Hamilton and Jefferson

Name:

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Using the table on page 304 and what you know about Alexander Hamilton and Thomas Jefferson, match the quote with the following “Founding Father.” Provide reasoning why the quote matches their political ideals or party. Alexander Hamilton was the founder of the Federalist Party and Thomas Jefferson and James Madison created the Democratic-Republican Party in response to Hamilton.

“Those who labor in the earth are the chosen people of God...”

Hamilton or Jefferson (circle one)

“All communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and well born, the other the mass of the people...”

Hamilton or Jefferson (circle one)

“It is not by the consolidation, or concentration of powers, but by their distribution, that good government is effected.”

Hamilton or Jefferson (circle one)

“Laws are made for men of ordinary understanding and should, therefore, be construed by the ordinary rules of common sense.”

Hamilton or Jefferson (circle one)

“A fondness for power is implanted, in most men, and it is natural to abuse it, when acquired.”

Hamilton or Jefferson (circle one)

“A national debt, if it is not excessive, will be to us a national blessing.”

Hamilton or Jefferson (circle one)

“America is now, I think, the only country of tranquility and should be the asylum of all those who wish to avoid the scenes which have crushed our friends in [other lands].”

Hamilton or Jefferson (circle one)

“I sincerely believe...that banking establishments are more dangerous than standing armies, and that the principle of spending money to be paid by posterity under the name of funding is but swindling futurity on a large scale.”

Hamilton or Jefferson (circle one)

“Power over a man’s subsistence is power over his will.”

Hamilton or Jefferson (circle one)

“The ancient democracies in which the people themselves deliberated never possessed one good feature of government. Their very character was tyranny; their figure deformity.”

Hamilton or Jefferson (circle one)
