

Handouts A–E Answer Keys

Handout A: From Establishment to Free Exercise Essay Answer Key

1. Maryland’s Toleration Act temporarily protected Roman Catholics from Protestant discrimination. Pennsylvania’s government accepted Christians of all denominations and did not enforce Quaker religious will on the people of Pennsylvania. Rhode Island was founded on the principles of the separation of church and state and freedom of worship for all.
2. They came, in part, to gather support for the proposed bill of rights.
3. Washington declared that the United States had moved from simple religious toleration to religious liberty; he connected the “liberty of conscience” to the Declaration of Independence by stating it was an “inherent natural right” that all possessed equally.

Handout B: Defining Toleration and Liberty Answer Key

Suggested definitions:

Toleration: sympathy or indulgence for beliefs or practices differing from, or conflicting with, one’s own; recognizing and putting up with the beliefs or practices of others.

Liberty: the quality or state of being free; the freedom or power to do as one pleases; freedom from unauthorized restraint.

The difference between Mason’s draft and Madison’s amendment reflects a shift from religious toleration (the assumption of the existence of an authority – the civil state and/or established church – that can either grant or revoke the “privilege” of exercising one’s religion), towards religious liberty (the understanding that religious belief is a natural and inalienable right beyond the reach of the civil state).

Handout D: Religion and America’s Past – Toleration, Liberty, or Both? Graphic Organizer Answer Key

Reasoned arguments can be made that many documents could be either. Documents most likely to be categorized as “toleration”: 2, 4, and 5; Documents most likely to be categorized as “liberty”: 1, 3, 6, 7, and 8.

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Handout E: Washington's Letter to the Hebrew Congregation in Newport, Rhode Island (1790)

Answer Key

1. "The just administration of a good government."
2. "Liberty of conscience and immunities of citizenship."
3. That citizens should conduct themselves in a law-abiding and civil manner and give to the government their active agreement and support.
4. Accept reasoned answers.
5. Accept reasoned answers.
6. Accept reasoned answers.
7. Accept reasoned answers.