Reviewing for your DBQ exam.

The upcoming exam is called a D(ocument) B(ased) Q(uestion). The topic is the causes and effects of the American Revolution.

During this exam you will be given 5-10 documents (journal entries, speeches, political cartoons, pictures etc) to analyze. These documents will help you answer an essay question at the end of the exam.

When writing an essay remember to follow the 5 paragraph model; intro to introduce the thesis (what you plan to prove in your essay) and your three topic sentences (the evidence you’ll use to support your thesis in your body paragraphs), three body paragraphs with topic sentences (supporting details) to argue and support your thesis, finally an conclusion will restate your thesis and recap your topic sentences.

Make sure you have a firm grasp of the following terms and/or ideas:

Historical Content

1. The acts, laws, events that lead the American Colonies to seek their independence.
2. Key moments/battles during the Revolutionary wars.
3. The reasons acts and laws were passed by the British.
4. Colonial response to the passage of unjust British laws

Mechanics

1. How to write a thesis sentence.
2. How to construct an essay.
3. How to support a thesis with details.
4. How to interpret a document.

Document Examples:

“For every hundred weight avoirdupois of such foreign white or clayed sugars, one pound two shillings, over and above all other duties imposed by any former act of parliament. For every pound weight avoirdupois of such foreign indigo, six pence.” (Excerpt from Sugar Act)

 An angry mob protest against the Stamp Act by throwing stamped documents onto a bonfire in Boston

“I think that all laws until they are repealed ought to be obeyed and that it is the duty of those who are entrusted with the executive part of government to see that they are so”

William Franklin 1771

“…The parliament has no right to make any law binding on the colonies…I know your sentiments differ from mine on these subjects. You are a thorough government man which I do not wonder at, nor do I aim at converting you. I only wish you to act uprightly and steadily.”

Benjamin Franklin 1773