

SHORT ANSWER

10 minutes for these questions (4 points each)

1. Where in North America was the first English colony planted, and how long did it last?
On Roanoke Island, in 1585. It lasted only one year; sickness and fear caused the colonists to go home in 1586. A new colony was planted at Roanoke in 1587, and it is that colony that became the “Lost Colony of Roanoke.”
2. What two things saved the Jamestown colony from utter failure?
1) The colonists learned to produce their own food. 2) Tobacco proved to be a highly marketable cash crop, giving the colonists a basis for trade with England.
3. What was the general social status of the men who settled Jamestown?
They were adventurers searching for gold. Few were able (even if they had been willing) to do manual labor; they came from the gentleman and merchant classes.
4. What is a joint-stock company?
A joint-stock company is a company that has many investors who jointly finance a venture or expedition, so that even people of modest means can invest without fear of losing all they have.
5. Name one of the three joint-stock companies that became very profitable and influential during the 1600’s.
Any one of the following companies would be correct:
 - *English East India Company*
 - *Dutch East India Company*
 - *French Company of New France*
6. The Thirty Years’ War was a series of religious and political conflicts that began in 1618 and lasted until 1648.
- 7-8. What was the Peace of Westphalia, and how did it resolve the Thirty Years’ War?
The Peace of Westphalia, in 1648, ended the series of conflicts called the Thirty Years’ War on much the same terms as the Peace of Augsburg had decided similar religious conflicts years before. Each prince could decide the religion for his own territory. New features were that France acquired Alsace and Lorraine and that Sweden got control of the mouths of the Oder, Elbe, and Weser rivers. Also as a result of the treaty, Calvinism was put on an equal footing with Catholicism and Lutheranism.
9. The year 1619 saw both the first meeting of the House of Burgesses (the first freely elected assembly in America) and the importation of twenty African slaves.
10. In the year 1607, James I of England allowed settlers to go to America; these were the settlers who would found Jamestown. In the same year, a certain group of Puritans—who would later be called Pilgrims—fled from England to Amsterdam.

ESSAY QUESTION

20 minutes for one of these questions (60 points)

1. The Jamestown colony displayed, in one place, acts of courage, selfishness, and grace. Give specific evidences of all three of these as you describe the early history of Jamestown.

Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

- Courage to found a colony in the wilderness when the only previous venture had ended in the disappearance of all the settlers
- Persistence in the face of unknown terrain, disease, famine, and Indian hostility
- Selfish motives on the part of the gentlemen settlers, who came to hunt treasure and refused to participate in the manual labor necessary for the colony's successful survival
- Brave, decisive leadership from John Smith
- Grace of God in providing strong leaders
- Selfish treatment of the Indians, appropriating their land and then aggravating hostilities rather than trying to make peace
- Lord De La Warr's firm Christian leadership, which kept the settlers from abandoning the colony after the Starving Time
- Incidental discovery of tobacco, a profitable cash crop that would thrive in Virginia, which stabilized the colony economically

Sample Answer

The Jamestown colony displayed, in one place, acts of courage, selfishness, and grace. All three of these can be seen in the early history of Jamestown.

From the very beginning, the planting of a new colony displayed courage. When the Jamestown settlers set out, England had no successful colonies in the new world. The only settlers to attempt a colony previously, on the island of Roanoke, had disappeared without a trace. The men of Jamestown braved the ocean for four months to arrive on a beautiful but utterly foreign shore. The Indians they met were not particularly friendly, and they became increasingly hostile. Nevertheless, the settlers persisted in establishing a colony, spurred on by courageous leaders like John Smith. The courage of these settlers made Jamestown the first colony to succeed.

As the history of Jamestown unfolded, however, the selfishness of many of the settlers became more and more apparent. Although they were adventurous men, they had little taste for the hard work of building a colony. Most of them were gentlemen unaccustomed to manual labor. They had come to treasure-hunt, not farm. These men were a drain on the colony, instead of contributing to it. John Smith eventually had to make the rule that no one would eat unless he worked. The selfishness of the settlers jeopardized the success of the whole venture.

Ultimately, the Jamestown adventure succeeded because of the grace of God. The gift of strong leaders like John Smith and the Christian governor, Lord De La Warr, kept the settlers going through hard times. An incidental discovery that tobacco grew well in Virginia led to a thriving trade with England that became the basis of the colony's economy. These were advantages that the colonists were not looking for, yet they were critical in allowing the venture to succeed. Through these incidents, one can recognize the unlooked-for grace of God.

The Jamestown story is one of great courage and also great selfishness. Ultimately, however, its success was due to the grace of God.

2. What is meant by the “quiet hand of Providence”? In a narrative essay, detail three ways in which that hand was working in the history of Jamestown through the following key leaders: John Smith, Lord De La Warr, and John Rolfe.

Points an Excellent Answer Might Include

- The quiet hand of Providence is God’s use of seemingly small or unrelated events to further His purposes.
- John Smith’s adventurous life prior to Jamestown, which prepared him to be a strong, successful leader who could establish Jamestown on a good footing
- Lord De La Warr’s arrival right at the moment when the colonists had decided to abandon their floundering, starving settlement
- John Rolfe’s discovery of a new, improved tobacco strain, which became Virginia’s chief export and the basis of her economic success

Sample Answer

The “quiet hand of Providence” refers to God’s pattern of using seemingly minor or unrelated events in ways that become significant later on, thus furthering His own purposes. This Hand works throughout history in big things and small, and it can be seen at many points in the history of Jamestown.

God’s providence was working even before the founding of Jamestown in the life of Captain John Smith. Few men have had such an adventurous life. Before Smith was a settler, he was a farmer, a Dutch soldier, a mercenary in Eastern Europe, and a Turkish slave who escaped to Russia before he finally made it home to England. These experiences helped make Smith the tough, commanding leader that he was. His skilled leadership in Jamestown pulled the colony together and set it on the path to be a productive, thriving settlement. God’s providence in John Smith’s life helped the Jamestown colony succeed.

Another providential event in the history of Jamestown was the arrival of Lord De La Warr. After Smith had to return to England due to gunpowder burns, the colonists had no strong leadership. The winter that followed was the worst season the colonists had ever endured. Their food ran out, and huge numbers of them died. By spring, they were ready to quit and sail back to England. Just at that moment, ships arrived in the James River with their new governor, Lord De La Warr. A strong Christian and firm leader, De La Warr restored order to the dying colony. His leadership at a crucial moment prevented the Jamestown venture from failing.

One quiet act of providence was John Rolfe’s discovery of tobacco. All the earliest colonists expected to make their way in the New World by finding gold and silver, which they could send back to England. John Smith forced them to start farming lest they starve, but they still did not have a strong basis for their economy. Then John Rolfe brought in a new strain of tobacco. This crop thrived in Virginia and was in high demand in England. Over time, it became the primary source of Virginian wealth. The incidental discovery of tobacco as a cash crop was the key to Jamestown’s success.

God’s work in human history often has effects unforeseen by men but all planned by God. This quiet, guiding hand can be observed in John Smith’s early experiences, Lord De La Warr’s arrival, and John Rolfe’s discovery of tobacco, little details that were critical to the success of the Jamestown experiment.