**Analysis activity 3.3: Historical intepretation**

Samuel Adams, writing on the revolutionary ideas of liberty and freedom in 1772, said:

*Among the natural Rights of the Colonists are these: First, a Right to Life; Secondly to Liberty; thirdly to Property; together with the Right to support and defend them in the best manner they can …*

*The natural liberty of man is to be free from any superior power on earth, and not to be under the will or legislative authority of man; but only to have the law of nature for his rule …*

*Just and true liberty, equal and impartial liberty in matters spiritual and temporal, is a thing that all Men are clearly entitled to, by the … laws of nature, as well as by the law of Nations …*

*The great end of civil government from the very nature of its institution is for the support, protection and defence of those very rights …*

*All Men have a Right to remain in a State of Nature … And in case of intolerable Oppression … to leave the Society they belong to, and enter into another.*

*… civil laws, should conform as far as possible, to the Law of natural reason …*

*The Legislative has no right to absolute arbitrary power over the lives and fortunes of the people …*

*All Persons born in the British American Colonies are by the laws of God and nature … entitled to all natural essential, inherent and inseparable Rights, Liberties and Privileges …*

Quoted in M. Jensen (ed.), *Tracts of the American Revolution*, The Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis, 1967, pp. 235, 236, 237, 239



**Source 3.19** Samuel Adams, undated etching

1. Identify from the extract two of the natural rights of the Colonists.

1. Identify from the extract two ways in which man’s liberty is to be kept free.

1. By quoting from the extract and using your own knowledge, explain the extent to which ideas of rights and liberty influenced the direction of the American Revolution.

1. Evaluate the usefulness of the extract in understanding the rise of significant individuals and their ideas from 1763 to 1776. In your response quote parts of the extract and refer to different views of the period 1763 to 1776.