



## Sample answer II

### How did Samuel Adams contribute to a revolutionary situation by 1776?

*A Harvard graduate, Sam Adams worked more than any other revolutionary to enlarge the fight that lay between Britain and the colonies, employing the power of the mob while promoting enflaming ideology, to create a revolutionary situation by 1776.*

*Samuel Adams was a staunch Protestant who believed that Britain's sovereignty in the American colonies, where it should belong to the constituents and therefore God, was an abridgment of 'natural rights'. When the Stamp Act 1765 was introduced, Adams, along with James Otis, established the Sons of Liberty, harnessing the 'power of the mob' to repel what they saw as illegitimate infringements upon the colonies. The success of their rebellion, which saw the Stamp Act repealed in 1766, set precedence for further rebellion to occur.*

*When the Townshend Duties were introduced, taxing imported goods such as paint and lead, and threatening the power of the Colonial Assemblies, Adams' promise to 'take up arms and spend our last drop of blood' proved the catalyst that saw 1000 British troops deployed to Boston. Though unsuccessful on this occasion, the presence of the troops led to the Boston Massacre (1770) that saw Adams publish A Short Narrative of the Horrid Massacre of Boston as revolutionary propaganda that further induced colonial fear for British tyranny.*

*Adams, though a street 'rabble-rouser', also contributed significantly to the organisational sophistication of the Revolution. In 1772 Adams created the Committees of the Correspondence, allowing for the increasingly interconnected nature of the Colonial Assemblies, while his circular letter 'A State of the Rights of Colonists' argued for the defence of the 'natural rights' that were under siege by the British.*

*It was his response to the Tea Act 1773, however, that proved 'so bold, so daring' and inflammatory. When Britain attempted to reduce excise taxes on tea, to allow the failing British East India Company to clear stocked warehouses, Samuel Adams organised the Sons of Liberty to board the ships, seize the cargo and dispose of £9569 worth of tea into the harbour. This complete rebellion saw British respond with the Coercive Acts (1774) that unified the colonies through the First Continental Congress (1774) and justified the Declaration of Independence (1776).*

*Ultimately Adams, who represented Massachusetts at both the First (1774) and Second (1775) Continental Congresses, had incited such tension between Britain and the colonies, by acting upon the ideologies that others only spoke and wrote of, that he is arguably responsible more than any other single figure for the revolutionary situation of 1776, and aptly named 'the most dangerous man in the colonies' by King George III.*