

# The Examination of Doctor Benjamin Franklin by Parliament Relating to the Repeal of the Stamp Act, January 1766

*As a colonial agent for Pennsylvania in London, Benjamin Franklin lobbied against the Stamp Act by arguing that the law had negative economic and political consequences. Benjamin Franklin testified before the House of Commons, the lower house of Parliament, in January, contributing to the eventual repeal of the legislation . Franklin answered 174 questions, providing testimony which helped British lawmakers understand the colonists' resistance to British policies.*

[Transcript](#) with images of original pamphlet.

## Discussion Questions:

1.	According to Benjamin Franklin, what kinds of taxes do people pay in the colonies, and what happens when people are unable to pay them? [p. 1 and 4]	
2.	How does he answer the question about the colonies being protected without helping to pay for this protection? [p. 4]	
3.	How does Franklin describe the change in attitude of the colonies towards Britain and towards Parliament specifically before and after 1763? In his opinion, what factors account for this change? [p. 5-6]	

Description, Transcript, and Images provided courtesy of the Massachusetts Historical Society

*The Examination of Doctor Benjamin Franklin, before an August Assembly, relating to the Repeal of the Stamp-Act, &c.*, London: Printed for J. Almon, 1766. Massachusetts Historical Society. [https://www.masshist.org/database/viewer.php?item\\_id=251&pid=2](https://www.masshist.org/database/viewer.php?item_id=251&pid=2)