

Question 1-11 are based on the following passage.

Passage 1 is excerpted from a published letter written by an author known only as the Federal Farmer. Passage 2 is excerpted from a published letter by Agrippa, the pseudonym of James Winthrop.

Winthrop was part of the anti-federalist movement. Both passages were written in 1787.

Passage 1

Our object has been all along, to reform our federal system, and to strengthen our governments, but a new object now presents. The plan of government now proposed is evidently calculated totally to change, in time, our condition as a people. Instead of being thirteen republics, under a federal head, it is clearly designed to make us one consolidated government. Whether such a change can ever be effected in any manner; whether it can be effected without convulsions and civil wars; whether such a change will not totally destroy the liberties of this country—time only can determine.

The confederation was formed when great confidence was placed in the voluntary exertions of individuals, and of the respective states; and the framers of it, to guard against usurpation, so limited and checked the powers. We find, therefore, members of congress urging alterations in the federal system almost as soon as it was adopted. The first interesting question is how far the states can be consolidated into one entire government on free principles. The happiness of the people at large must be the great object with every honest statesman, and he will direct every movement to this point. If we are so situated as a people, as not to be able to enjoy equal happiness and advantages under one government, the consolidation of the states cannot be admitted.

Touching the federal plan, I do not think much can be said in its favor: The sovereignty of the nation, without coercive and efficient powers to collect the strength of it, cannot always be depended on to answer the purposes of government; and in a congress of representatives of sovereign states, there must necessarily be an unreasonable mixture of powers in the same hands.

Independent of the opinions of many great authors, that a free elective government cannot be extended over large territories, a few reflections must evince, that one government and general legislation alone, never can extend equal benefits to all parts of the United States: Different laws, customs, and opinions exist in the different states, which by a uniform system of laws would be unreasonably invaded. The United States contain about a million of square miles, and in half a century will, probably, contain ten millions of people.

Passage 2

Let us now consider how far [the new system] is consistent with the happiness of the people and their freedom. It is the opinion of the ablest writers on the subject, that no extensive empire can be governed upon republican principles, and that such a government will degenerate to a despotism, unless it be made up of a confederacy of smaller states, each having the full powers of internal regulation. This is precisely the principle which has hitherto preserved our freedom. No instance can be found of any free government of considerable extent which has been supported upon any other plan. Large and consolidated empires may indeed dazzle the eyes of a distant spectator with their splendour, but if examined more nearly are always found to be full of misery. The reason is obvious. In large states the same principles of legislation will not apply to all the parts. The laws not being made by the people, who felt the inconveniences, did not suit their circumstances. It is under such tyranny that the Spanish provinces languish, and such would be our misfortune and degradation, if we should submit to have the concerns of the whole empire managed by one legislature. To promote the happiness of the people it is necessary that there should be local laws; and it is necessary that those laws should be made by the representatives of those who are immediately subject to the want of them.

It is impossible for one code of laws to suit Georgia and Massachusetts. They must, therefore, legislate for themselves. The laws of Congress are in all cases to be the supreme law of the land, and paramount to the constitutions of the individual states. This new system is, therefore, a consolidation of all the states into one large mass, however diverse the parts may be of which it is to be composed. The idea of an uncompounded republick, on an average, one thousand miles in length, and eight hundred in breadth, and containing six millions of inhabitants all reduced to the same standard of morals, or habits, and of laws, is in itself an absurdity, and contrary to the whole experience of mankind. All that part, therefore, of the new system, which relates to the internal government of the states, ought at once to be rejected.

1

The main purpose of Passage 1 is

- A) to provide information about plans to reform the federal system.
- B) highlight inconsistent government principles across multiple states.
- C) introduce plans for a new kind of government that differs greatly from the current one.
- D) question a proposal to consolidate power in a single federal system.

2

Which statement about the federal government most accurately reflects the point of view of the author of Passage 1?

- A) The current form of government has been in place for too long and increased consolidation is long overdue.
- B) The proposed changes would bring about more negative consequences than maintaining the current form of government would.
- C) A well-functioning confederation is impossible because independent states will never agree on policies.
- D) The uniform system of laws proposed by a federal government will help unite the country as one nation.

3

Which idea is presented in Passage 2 but NOT in Passage 1?

- A) The proposed form of federal government will inevitably result in tyranny.
- B) The happiness and liberty of the people should be the priority of any form of government.
- C) The country is too large and has too many people for a federal government to rule effectively.
- D) It is better for states to govern themselves due to their differences in customs.

4

In explaining their ideas on federal government, both authors make use of which kind of evidence?

- A) Historical records
- B) Expert testimony
- C) Hypothetical scenarios
- D) Personal anecdotes

5

Both passages argue that individual states

- A) would not benefit from following the same set of laws.
- B) are becoming too unwieldy due to lack of one unifying government.
- C) run the risk of engaging in multiple civil wars over time.
- D) duplicate functions and should be eventually consolidated.

6

It can reasonably be inferred from Passage 1 that the author is

- A) skeptical that consolidating the government can occur peacefully.
- B) curious about reforming the federal system of government.
- C) concerned that increasing the independence of states will weaken local governments.
- D) doubtful that the majority of people will vote for new government legislation.

7

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) lines 1–3 (“Our . . . presents”)
- B) lines 3–5 (“The . . . people”)
- C) lines 5–7 (“Instead . . . government”)
- D) lines 7–11 (“Whether . . . determine”)

8

In line 39, “invaded” most nearly means

- A) infringed.
- B) usurped.
- C) trespassed.
- D) permeated.

9

By referring to the potential government as “a despotism” line 47, the author of Passage 2 implies that the proposal is

- A) extreme and dangerous.
- B) unwise but possible.
- C) troublesome and uncertain.
- D) hazardous but inevitable.

10

How would the author of Passage 2 most likely respond to the author’s ideas about consolidation of power in lines 33–41 of Passage 1?

- A) With disapproval, because they contradict his argument.
- B) With approval, because they help support his argument.
- C) With caution, because while the authors agree on some points, they do not agree on all.
- D) With support, because they bring up a new idea about the debate.

11

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) lines 52–55 (“Large . . . misery”)
- B) lines 55–56 (“In . . . parts”)
- C) lines 62–65 (“To. . . them”)
- D) lines 68–70 (“The . . . states”)