

**Question 1-11 are based on the following passage.**

Passage 1 is excerpted from a speech delivered by Patrick Henry and Passage 2 is excerpted from a speech delivered by James Madison. Both speeches were delivered during the Virginia Commonwealth Debates of 1788. The two statesmen disagreed over whether the Articles of Confederation, the current form of government at that time, should be replaced by the U.S. Constitution.

**Passage 1**

Guard with jealous attention the public liberty. Suspect every one who approaches that jewel. Unfortunately, nothing will preserve it but downright force. Whenever you give up that force, you are inevitably ruined. I am answered by  
 5 gentlemen, that, though I might speak of terrors, yet the fact was, that we were surrounded by none of the dangers I apprehended. I conceive this new government to be one of those dangers: it has produced those horrors which distress many of our best citizens. We are come hither to preserve the  
 10 poor commonwealth of Virginia, if it can be possibly done: something must be done to preserve your liberty and mine. The Confederation, this same despised government, merits, in my opinion, the highest encomium: it carried us through a long and dangerous war; it rendered us victorious in that  
 15 bloody conflict with a powerful nation; it has secured us a territory greater than any European monarch possesses: and shall a government which has been thus strong and vigorous, be accused of imbecility, and abandoned for want of energy? Consider what you are about to do before you part with the  
 20 government. Take longer time in reckoning things; revolutions like this have happened in almost every country in Europe; similar examples are to be found in ancient Greece and ancient Rome - instances of the people losing their liberty by their own carelessness and the ambition of a  
 25 few. We are cautioned by the honorable gentleman, who presides, against faction and turbulence. I acknowledge that licentiousness\* is dangerous, and that it ought to be provided against: I acknowledge, also, the new form of government may effectually prevent it: yet there is another thing it will as  
 30 effectually do - it will oppress and ruin the people.

\*A lack of moral restraint.

**Passage 2**

Before I proceed to make some additions to the reasons which have been adduced by my honorable friend over the way, I must take the liberty to make some observations on what was said by another gentleman, (Mr. Henry). He told us  
 35 that this Constitution ought to be rejected because it endangered the public liberty, in his opinion, in many instances. Give me leave to make one answer to that observation: Let the dangers which this system is supposed to

be replete with be clearly pointed out: if any dangerous and unnecessary powers be given to the general legislature, let them be plainly demonstrated; and let us not rest satisfied with general assertions of danger, without examination. If powers be necessary, apparent danger is not a sufficient reason against conceding them. He has suggested that  
 40 licentiousness has seldom produced the loss of liberty; but that the tyranny of rulers has almost always effected it. Since the general civilization of mankind, I believe there are more instances of the abridgment of the freedom of the people by gradual and silent encroachments of those in power, than by  
 45 violent and sudden usurpations; but, on a candid examination of history, we shall find that turbulence, violence, and abuse of power, by the majority trampling on the rights of the minority, have produced factions and commotions, which, in republics, have, more frequently than any other cause, produced despotism. If we go over the whole history of  
 50 ancient and modern republics, we shall find their destruction to have generally resulted from those causes. If we consider the peculiar situation of the United States, and what are the sources of that diversity of sentiment which pervades its inhabitants, we shall find great danger to fear that the same causes may terminate here in the same fatal effects which they produced in those republics. This danger ought to be  
 60 wisely guarded against. Perhaps, in the progress of this discussion, it will appear that the only possible remedy for those evils, and means of preserving and protecting the principles of republicanism, will be found in that very system which is now exclaimed against as the parent of oppression.

1

The central claim of the author of Passage 1 concerning the Confederation is that this form of government is historically  
 A) insufficient.  
 B) successful.  
 C) oppressive.  
 D) dangerous.

2

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?  
 A) lines 7–9 (“I . . . citizens”)  
 B) lines 9–11 (“We . . . mine”)  
 C) lines 12–16 (“The . . . possesses”)  
 D) lines 19–20 (“Consider . . . government”)

3

As used in line 20, the word “reckoning” most nearly means

- A) considering.
- B) computing.
- C) estimating.
- D) adding.

4

The author of Passage 1 uses the examples of ancient Greece and ancient Rome (line 23) most likely to

- A) demonstrate why political revolutions are inevitable over the course of history.
- B) explain why the Confederation should be condemned as an inefficient form of government.
- C) illustrate the results of public carelessness and individual ambition.
- D) argue against the oppressive power of the majority over a careless minority.

5

The author of Passage 2 implies that the author of Passage 1 does not

- A) give concrete proof for his arguments.
- B) care about the future of public liberty.
- C) consider the shortcomings of the Constitution.
- D) notice the danger of usurpation.

6

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

- A) lines 34–37 (“He . . . instances”)
- B) lines 37–39 (“Give . . . out”)
- C) lines 44–46 (“He . . . it”)
- D) lines 62–63 (“This . . . against”)

7

As used in line 48 of Passage 2, the word “abridgement” most nearly means

- A) abbreviation.
- B) concentration.
- C) summarization.
- D) reduction.

8

The author of Passage 2 states that the opinions of U. S. citizens are

- A) optimistic.
- B) divided.
- C) illogical.
- D) trivial.

9

The author of Passage 2 claims that public liberty is threatened by the majority’s abuse of power. This claim most clearly contrasts with the claim in Passage 1 that public liberty is threatened by

- A) an ambitious minority.
- B) an overactive majority.
- C) an immoral citizenry.
- D) an oppressive government.

10

Which situation is most similar to the one described in lines 63–67 of Passage 2 (“Perhaps, in the progress . . . parent of oppression”)?

- A) A patient complains about a medical treatment, but then finds that it is the only possible cure.
- B) An activist organizes a political demonstration, but then finds that it is for an unpopular cause.
- C) A student completes an assignment, but then finds that it has received a failing grade.
- D) A political candidate promises reform, but then finds that it is impossible to implement change.

11

The authors of both passages would agree that the Constitution could provide

- A) public liberty.
- B) moral restraint.
- C) increased democracy.
- D) legal protection.