**18) The well-being of a society is enhanced when many of its people question authority.**

Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.

1. 对于知识不多的人，比如低年级学生(lower grade student)不需要太具有 skepticism，因为知识 储备不够，还要积累;找问题，解决问题的方法未掌握;可以问 why 而不是 challenge long established principles taught by their teacher。 由于自己知识水平低而存在的疑问随着深入的学习会消除。比如刚学 会加法的学生就质疑加法的正确性，怎么继续学习，不如等具备了全面的知识以后在质疑，或许那时更能有所发现。怀疑精神造成不信任(distrust);b、许多怀疑根据不足(many doubt has scarce evidence);

2.通过怀疑权威， 促进社会进步，学术方面(science)，Challenging academic authority promotes academic progress.如哥白尼 Copernicus 质疑权威 Catholic Church，提出 heliocentric theory，推动 astronomy 发展。例如 哈维发现血液循环以及心脏的作用，质 疑了盖伦的老学说，奠定了现代生理学 physiology 的基础。政治方面，屈原、董仲舒提 倡改革祖宗之法。Challenging political authority forces politicians and the government to be more democratic, efficient, responsible and honest.

3. 怀疑激发创造力，探求真理(truth)，质疑促进了创新(innovation)。人类的认识是有限的，不可能完全正确没有任何漏洞。质疑提出了问题，引起了创新。孟德尔通过8年的研究，质疑了当时的权威，提出遗传定理 。主动学习揭示(announce)学习规律，人是主动获取，skepticism 可以 深化 deepen 和促进理解。

Is that true that someone would learn from the process that he comes a question and find a way to solve it? I bet your answer is yes. However, do you agree that all of us need to question authority rather than accepting whatever others said? People’s opinions mainly fall into two categories, and I tagged them as the ‘obey authority’ oriented and the ‘question authority’ oriented. The ‘obey authority’ supporters assert that authority, like teacher and seniors, considers or studies a problem for a long time, and a layperson should not keep question them before he accumulates enough backgrounds. Meanwhile, the ‘question authority’ believers insist that a person without professional or specialized knowledge in a particular subject could find out a novel point that those authorities might ignore. Both sides justify themselves with sound reason. From my perspective, in most cases, I would encourage students (individuals) to be skepticism.

The ‘obey authority’ supporters might argue that if deficient in fundamental knowledge, over-skepticism will lead to total simplicity and naivety. Albert Einstein said, "Unthinking respect for authority is the greatest enemy of truth." We are not omniscient, nor can we be experts in every field. We, of necessity, respect the authority of doctors, dentists, and other medical specialists. After my pulmonary embolism, my doctor put me on a blood thinning drug. I am not about to question his expertise, though I did read up on the disease and the drug. This is not a failure to question authority so much as an acknowledgement that he knows more about the ailment and its treatment than I do. Moreover, many doubt has scarce evidence and be used by people with ulterior motives. A good case in hand is during the SARS period, China government didn’t inform the mass and someone began to rumors. The public couldn’t find out the truth and gradually question the government and even cause the social unrest. In sum, compliance with an order or submission to authority would be effective in the well-being of society.

Nevertheless, the ‘question authority’ believers could also cite some advantages of questioning authority. It would stimulate creativity, inspire us to explore the truth and promote innovation. Challenging academic authority promotes academic progress. Copernicus, a Renaissance- and Reformation-era mathematician and astronomer who formulated a model of the universe that placed the Sun rather than the Earth at the center of the universe, oppose the authority of the Church and of Aristotle, triggering the Copernican Revolution and making an important contribution to the Scientific Revolution. In conclusion, questioning rules or authority is essential for students(individuals) to be creative.

Furthermore, a society should be cautious that their experts narrow down to a field and reject to hearken others question, since disciplines are not independent but interdependent. Here is an example, John F. Nash’s achievement on mathematics and economics suggests that mathematical knowledge is conducive to establish a deeper understanding of economics. Moreover, some disciplines in theoretical science such as mathematics, physics, etc., might be ignored by students but are consequential. For instance, as philosophy is the foundation of all disciplines and philosophy trainings can greatly benefit students in critical thinking and problem solving which is the prerequisite of every discipline, it’s inevitably that experts are directed to learn some philosophy. In short, society should recommend people question authority, since those authorities might improve faster owning to their skeptical attitude.