**Prompt**:

**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.

**Essay**:

It is evident through the course of history that power, when unchecked and unquestioned, leads to a tyrannical regime that undermines the rights of its subjects. A well functioning society is possible only when power is kept in check and distributed in a manner than doesn’t allow a single person or entity to control all of it. Therefore, it is my strong belief that people should question authority for a society to thrive for two reasons.

To begin, history has been a witness to all manners of government, ranging from democracies to communist and fascist regimes and it is evident that most ephemeral societies employed the latter. Almost all wars, ethnic discriminations, and decadent practices such as the caste system have been started by governments that held too much power. This not only allows the authorities to create and exercise laws as they please, it also suppresses the voice of the people through fear and aggression. Governments such as these slowly start to ensure their longevity by eliminating any obstacles that may prove inimical to their growth. For example, in Nazi occupied Germany, citizens (especially Jews) were not allowed to possess books or documents of any kind that were not authorized by the government. This was so that the government could ensure that its public didn’t get galvanized or swayed by literature into rebellion since most of the Nazi power was due to its highly biased and specious propaganda. This illustrates the extents of oppression a body of government can achieve through exploiting the ignorance and meekness of its people which further emphasizes the importance of the people to question authority.

Further, a government with most of the power in its people is not only beneficial for the collective good; it also lasts comparatively longer than totalitarian governments. A perfect example of this is the United States of America, a nation founded on the very principle that power should not reside in a single being for it can easily be misused (which is evident in the reign of the British Empire). The founding fathers of the nation constructed a democracy with three branches, each with its own powers and the authority to check the other branches to ensure that power is evenly distributed. Finally, and the most crucial part of its construction, was the right given to its people to govern themselves. This ensured that the government could be kept in line by the people themselves. It also led to the creation of the Bill of Rights, an amenable document that contains unalienable rights that any citizen has which cannot be taken away by the government. It is because of this meticulous planning (which allowed the people to govern themselves and question authority) that the USA is still a thriving nation with a massive inflow of immigrants seeking refuge and the rights offered by the American Constitution.

Of course, some may argue how a society where many of its people question and rebel against its government can be peaceful. However, it is precisely this fact that keeps the society susceptible to change. From protesting against slavery to fighting for women and gay rights, people are slowly creating a society where the lives of all of the people are enhanced. Nothing is perfect, but by questioning authority, people are thriving towards a perfect utopia.