

# Locke Reading Questions

Michael Brodskiy

Instructor: Mr. Bradshaw

Period 3

1. What is the legitimate purpose of government?

According to Locke, the foremost purpose of government is to protect the property of its citizens, as Locke states, “[t]he great and chief end, therefore, of men’s uniting into commonwealths, and putting themselves under government, is the preservation of their property”

2. What are man’s rights in a state of nature?

As Locke states, in a state of nature, mankind is “*absolute lord of his own person and possessions, equal to the greatest, and subject to no body*”

3. Why would man give up these rights?

In Locke’s opinion, mankind is not secure in its rights in a state of nature, or, “*the enjoyment of the property he has in this state is very unsafe, very unsecure.*” Therefore, to safeguard these rights, man would establish a government and “*make them take sanctuary under the established laws of government, and therein seek the preservation of their property*”

4. What is meant by the term “the common good”

“Common good” refers to the good of a group, such as a community, society, or family. This “common good” defines what is beneficial for a group rather than the individual

5. What is meant by the “general name, property”? Is this term used in our founding documents?

Locke defines the “general name, property” as a person’s life, their freedoms, and their belongings, as he states that “*... lives, liberties, and estates, which I call by the general name, property*”