

Passage 2

Every age and generation must be as free to act for itself, *in all cases*, as the ages and generations which preceded it. The vanity and presumption of governing beyond the grave, is the most ridiculous
45 and insolent of all tyrannies.

Man has no property in man; neither has any generation a property in the generations which are to follow. The Parliament or the people of 1688, or of any other period, had no more right to dispose of the
50 people of the present day, or to bind or to control them in any shape whatever, than the parliament or the people of the present day have to dispose of, bind, or control those who are to live a hundred or a thousand years hence.

55 Every generation is, and must be, competent to all the purposes which its occasions require. It is the living, and not the dead, that are to be accommodated. When man ceases to be, his power and his wants cease with him; and having no longer
60 any participation in the concerns of this world, he has no longer any authority in directing who shall be its governors, or how its government shall be organized, or how administered. . . .

Those who have quitted the world, and those who
65 are not yet arrived at it, are as remote from each other, as the utmost stretch of mortal imagination can conceive. What possible obligation, then, can exist between them; what rule or principle can be laid down, that two nonentities, the one out of existence,
70 and the other not in, and who never can meet in this world, that the one should control the other to the end of time? . . .

The circumstances of the world are continually changing, and the opinions of men change also; and
75 as government is for the living, and not for the dead, it is the living only that has any right in it. That which may be thought right and found convenient in one age, may be thought wrong and found inconvenient in another. In such cases, who is to
80 decide, the living, or the dead?

32

In Passage 1, Burke indicates that a contract between a person and society differs from other contracts mainly in its

- A) brevity and prominence.
- B) complexity and rigidity.
- C) precision and usefulness.
- D) seriousness and permanence.

33

As used in line 4, “state” most nearly refers to a

- A) style of living.
- B) position in life.
- C) temporary condition.
- D) political entity.

34

As used in line 22, “low” most nearly means

- A) petty.
- B) weak.
- C) inadequate.
- D) depleted.

35

It can most reasonably be inferred from Passage 2 that Paine views historical precedents as

- A) generally helpful to those who want to change society.
- B) surprisingly difficult for many people to comprehend.
- C) frequently responsible for human progress.
- D) largely irrelevant to current political decisions.

36

How would Paine most likely respond to Burke's statement in lines 30-34, Passage 1 ("As the . . . born")?

- A) He would assert that the notion of a partnership across generations is less plausible to people of his era than it was to people in the past.
- B) He would argue that there are no politically meaningful links between the dead, the living, and the unborn.
- C) He would question the possibility that significant changes to a political system could be accomplished within a single generation.
- D) He would point out that we cannot know what judgments the dead would make about contemporary issues.

37

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

- A) Lines 41-43 ("Every . . . it")
- B) Lines 43-45 ("The vanity . . . tyrannies")
- C) Lines 56-58 ("It is . . . accommodated")
- D) Lines 67-72 ("What . . . time")

38

Which choice best describes how Burke would most likely have reacted to Paine's remarks in the final paragraph of Passage 2?

- A) With approval, because adapting to new events may enhance existing partnerships.
- B) With resignation, because changing circumstances are an inevitable aspect of life.
- C) With skepticism, because Paine does not substantiate his claim with examples of governments changed for the better.
- D) With disapproval, because changing conditions are insufficient justification for changing the form of government.

39

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

- A) Lines 1-4 ("To avoid . . . state")
- B) Lines 7-9 ("he should . . . solicitude")
- C) Lines 27-29 ("It is . . . perfection")
- D) Lines 34-38 ("The municipal . . . community")

40

Which choice best states the relationship between the two passages?

- A) Passage 2 challenges the primary argument of Passage 1.
- B) Passage 2 advocates an alternative approach to a problem discussed in Passage 1.
- C) Passage 2 provides further evidence to support an idea introduced in Passage 1.
- D) Passage 2 exemplifies an attitude promoted in Passage 1.

41

The main purpose of both passages is to

- A) suggest a way to resolve a particular political struggle.
- B) discuss the relationship between people and their government.
- C) evaluate the consequences of rapid political change.
- D) describe the duties that governments have to their citizens.