

**Questions 20-28 are based on the following passage.**

The following is adapted from a presidential campaign speech given by Theodore Roosevelt in 1912.

The great fundamental issue now before our people can be stated briefly. It is: are the American people fit to govern themselves, to rule themselves, to control themselves? I believe they are. My opponents do not.

I believe in the right of the people to rule. I believe that the majority of the plain people of the United States will, day in and day out, make fewer mistakes in governing themselves than any smaller class or body of men, no matter what their training, will make in trying to govern them. I believe, again, that the American people are capable of self-control and of learning by their mistakes. Our opponents pay lip-loyalty to this doctrine; but they show their real beliefs by the way in which they champion every device to make the nominal rule of the people a sham.

I have scant patience with this talk of the tyranny of the majority. Wherever there is tyranny of the majority, I shall protest against it with all my heart and soul. But we are today suffering from the tyranny of minorities. It is a small minority that is grabbing our coal-deposits, our water-powers, and our harbor fronts. A small minority is battenning on the sale of adulterated foods and drugs. It is a small minority that lies behind monopolies and trusts. It is a small minority that stands behind the present law of master and servant, the sweatshops, and the whole calendar of social and industrial injustice. It is a small minority that is today using our convention system to defeat the will of a majority of the people in the choice of delegates to the Chicago Convention.

This is the question that I propose to submit to the people. How can the prevailing morality or a preponderant opinion be better and more exactly ascertained than by a vote of the people? The people know what their own morality and their own opinion is.

The only tyrannies from which men, women, and children are suffering in real life are the tyrannies of minorities. If the majority of the American people were in fact tyrannous over the minority, if democracy had no greater self-control than empire, then indeed no written words which our forefathers put into the Constitution could stay that tyranny.

No sane man who has been familiar with the government of this country for the last twenty years will complain that we have had too much of the rule of the majority. The trouble has been a far different one. At many times and in many localities, there have been men who held public office in the States and in the nation who have, in fact, served not the whole people, but some special class or special interest. I am not thinking only of those special interests which by grosser methods, by bribery and crime, have stolen from the people. I am thinking as much of their respectable allies and figureheads, who have ruled and legislated and decided as if in some way the vested rights of privilege had a first mortgage on the whole United States, while the rights of all the people were merely an unsecured debt.

Am I overstating the case? Have our political leaders always, or generally, recognized their duty to the people as anything more than a duty to disperse the mob, see that the ashes are taken away, and distribute patronage? Have our leaders always, or generally, worked for the benefit of human beings, to increase the prosperity of all the people, to give each some opportunity of living decently and bringing up his children well? The questions need no answer.

CONTINUE



20

The tone of the passage is best described as

- A) optimistic.
- B) despondent.
- C) fervent.
- D) resigned.

21

Which situation is most analogous to the problem Roosevelt presents in the passage?

- A) A town assembly with an overfilled agenda
- B) A sports team with an unpopular captain
- C) A boss who only accepts feedback from managers
- D) A club that has instituted a democratic voting process

22

In the context of the passage, Roosevelt's use of the phrase "pay lip-loyalty" in lines 13-14 is meant to convey the idea that his opponents

- A) agree that Americans are capable of self-control and self-improvement.
- B) say they agree that Americans are capable of self-control while acting otherwise.
- C) support the American people's right to rule but make exceptions during wartime.
- D) give many speeches in support of the doctrine that Americans are capable of self-control and learning.

23

Which of the following best represents Roosevelt's views on the tyranny of the majority?

- A) He is determined to fight against this prevalent problem with all his heart and soul.
- B) It is behind such pressing issues as monopolies, trusts, and sweatshops.
- C) Along with the tyranny of the minority, it is responsible for the loss of resources like coal, water, and certain foods.
- D) It is not a major problem in America, despite the talk of many political figures.

24

Which of the following provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 11-13 ("I believe ... mistakes")
- B) Lines 18-19 ("I have ... majority")
- C) Lines 55-57 ("I am ... people")
- D) Lines 64-68 ("Have our ... patronage")

25

As used in line 46, "stay" most nearly means

- A) halt.
- B) visit.
- C) remain.
- D) delay.



26

Which of the following does Roosevelt use to illustrate how leaders have served the interests of only a small minority?

- A) A list of named offenders
- B) A financial metaphor
- C) A commissioned report
- D) A recent trial

27


Roosevelt asserts that some men in public office have

- A) listened too much to the rule of the majority.
- B) focused too much on social policy at the expense of economic policy.
- C) exaggerated their accomplishments to the upper classes.
- D) often favored the privileged portions of the population.

28

Which of the following provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 47-50 (“No sane ... majority”)
- B) Lines 51-55 (“At many ... interest”)
- C) Line 64 (“Am I ... case”)
- D) Lines 68-72 (“Have our ... well”)



CONTINUE

