



Directions: The passage in this exercise is followed by several questions. After reading the passage, choose the best answer to each question. You may refer to the passage as often as necessary.

An excerpt from the Declaration of Independence, 1776.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness.—That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed.—That whenever any Form
5 of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that Governments long established should not be
10 changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shewn that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed.

1. As it is used in the passage, *unalienable rights* (line 2) most nearly means:
 - A. privileges won in a competition.
 - B. rights that have to be earned.
 - C. privileges given by a government.
 - D. natural rights that cannot be taken away.
2. According to the passage, when a government becomes destructive (lines 4–8):
 - F. Citizens should continue to abide by the government.
 - G. It can be changed or eliminated by the people it governs.
 - H. Other countries should intervene and bring it to a halt.
 - J. It is not the concern of any other nation or individual.
3. You can infer from the passage that the U.S. government receives its powers from (lines 3–5):
 - A. the president.
 - B. international leaders.
 - C. Congress.
 - D. the people.
4. According to the passage, *transient causes* (line 9) most nearly mean:
 - F. temporary
 - G. significant
 - H. ignorant
 - J. careful
5. You can infer from the passage that when governments abuse their power, most often people are inclined to (lines 9–11):
 - A. tolerate their government.
 - B. rebel against their government.
 - C. abolish their government.
 - D. reform their government