

SAT General – Reading Section

Questions 1-10 are based on the following passage. *This passage is from Abraham Lincoln's last public address on April 11, 1865, just 3 days before being assassinated. It was given from the White House in Washington, D.C.. The speech introduced the complex topic of reconstruction, especially to the state of Louisiana. For the first time in a public setting, Lincoln expressed his support for black suffrage.*

The amount of constituency, so to speak, on which the new Louisiana government rests, would be more satisfactory to all, if it contained fifty, thirty, or even twenty thousand, instead of only about twelve thousand, as it does. It is also unsatisfactory to some that the elective franchise is not given to the colored man. I would myself prefer that it were now conferred on the very intelligent, and on those who serve our cause as soldiers. Still the question is not whether the Louisiana government, as it stands, is quite all that is desirable. The question is, "Will it be wiser to take it as it is, and help to improve it; or to reject, and disperse it?" "Can Louisiana be brought into proper practical relation with the Union sooner by sustaining, or by discarding her new State government?"

10 Some twelve thousand voters in the heretofore slave-state of Louisiana have sworn allegiance to the Union, assumed to be the rightful political power of the State, held elections, organized a State government, adopted a free-state constitution, giving the benefit of public schools equally to black and white, and empowering the Legislature to confer the elective franchise upon the colored man. Their Legislature has already voted to ratify the constitutional amendment recently passed by Congress, abolishing slavery throughout the nation. These twelve thousand persons are thus fully committed to the Union, and to perpetual freedom in the state-- committed to the very things, and nearly all the things the nation wants--and they ask the nations recognition and it's assistance to make good their committal. Now, if we reject, and spurn them, we do our utmost to disorganize and disperse them. We in effect say to the white men "You are worthless, or worse--we will neither help you, nor be helped by you." To the blacks we say "This cup of liberty which these, your old

20 masters, hold to your lips, we will dash from you, and leave you to the chances of gathering the spilled and scattered contents in some vague and undefined when, where, and how." If this course, discouraging and paralyzing both white and black, has any tendency to bring Louisiana into proper practical relations with the Union, I have, so far, been unable to perceive it. If, on the contrary, we recognize, and sustain the new government of Louisiana the converse of all this is made true. We encourage the hearts, and nerve the arms of the twelve thousand to adhere to their work, and argue for it, and proselyte for it, and fight for it, and feed it, and grow it, and ripen it to a complete success. The colored man too, in seeing all united for him, is inspired with vigilance, and energy, and daring, to the same end. Grant that he desires the elective franchise, will he not attain it sooner by saving the already advanced steps toward it, than by running backward over them? Concede that the new government of Louisiana is only to what it should be as the egg is to the fowl, we shall

30 sooner have the fowl by hatching the egg than by smashing it? Again, if we reject Louisiana, we also reject one vote in favor of the proposed amendment to the national Constitution. To meet this proposition, it has been argued that no more than three fourths of those States which have not attempted secession are necessary to validly ratify the amendment. I do not commit myself against this, further than to say that such ratification would be questionable, and sure to be persistently questioned; while a ratification by three-fourths of all the States would be unquestioned and unquestionable.

1. The word 'proselyte' on line 24 is closest to which of the below given meanings.
 - a. To change one's religion.
 - b. To change one's friends
 - c. To change one's residence
 - d. To change one's opinions.

2. As per Lincoln who should the elective franchise be given to
 - a. The colored men
 - b. To both colored and white men
 - c. To highly intelligent people and the soldiers
 - d. To soldiers

3. What was the main concern that Lincoln was talking about with respect to the proposed Louisiana government?
 - a. That it was elected by only a white constituency
 - b. That it was not what the people finally desired
 - c. That the main question was whether to accept it or to reject it.
 - d. That it was proposing amalgamation of the white and colored man

4. The antonym of the word 'discard' on line 7 would be
 - a. Toss out
 - b. Retain
 - c. Dispose off
 - d. Receive

5. One of the constitutional amendments of the Congress that the Louisiana Legislature had voted to ratify was
 - a. Equal educational opportunities for white and colored children
 - b. Abolition of slavery across the nation
 - c. Voting rights for both colored and white men
 - d. None of these

6. What was the main thing that the Louisiana Legislature was expecting from the nation.
 - a. Its support in the form of acceptance of the newly elected Louisiana government
 - b. Rejection of the proposal to incorporate the colored man in the mainstream
 - c. Amendments in the proposed Louisiana Legislature
 - d. Changes in the composition of the constituency

7. The words 'You are worthless, or worse' on line 17 in the given passage are being said with reference to the
- Audience listening to Lincoln's speech
 - The colored man expecting to be freed from slavery
 - The people belonging to other states
 - The white men forming the Louisiana constituency
8. 'gathering the spilled and scattered contents' – what is the speaker referring to in this phrase on line 19.
- the proposed changes to the Constitution
 - the pages of Lincoln's speech
 - the dreams of the colored man with regards to freedom from slavery
 - the unification of Louisiana with the rest of the Union.
9. 'the new government of Louisiana is only to what it should be as the egg is to the fowl'. Identify the figure of speech used in the sentence on line 28.
- Metaphor
 - Personification
 - Allegory
 - Analogy
10. Which of these is the word 'secession' on line 31 of the passage closest in meaning to?
- Desertion
 - Withdrawal
 - splitting
 - Quitting
11. The overall tone of this speech is
- Supportive of Louisiana's proposed government
 - Celebratory after Union's victory
 - Desultory
 - Accusatory



Answer Key

1. The word 'proselyte' is closest to which of the below given meanings.

Option d - To change one's opinions.

2. As per Lincoln who should the elective franchise be given to

Option c - To highly intelligent people and the soldiers

3. What was the main concern that Lincoln was talking about with respect to the proposed Louisiana government?

Option c - **That the main question was whether to accept it or to reject it.**

4. The antonym of the word 'discard' would be

Option b – retain

5. One of the constitutional amendments of the Congress that the Louisiana Legislature had voted to ratify was

Option b - Abolition of slavery across the nation

6. What was the main thing that the Louisiana Legislature was expecting from the nation.

Option a - Its support in the form of acceptance of the newly elected Louisiana government

7. 'You are worthless, or worse' – in the given passage these words are being said with reference to the

Option d - The white men forming the Louisiana constituency

8. 'gathering the spilled and scattered contents' – what is the speaker referring to in the given phrase

Option c - the dreams of the colored man with regards to freedom from slavery

9. 'the new government of Louisiana is only to what it should be as the egg is to the fowl'. Identify the figure of speech used in the given sentence.

Option d – Analogy

10. The word 'secession' is closest in meaning to (as per this passage)

Option b – Withdrawal

11. The overall tone of this speech is

Option a - Supportive of Louisiana's proposed government

