

Write in the box the number of the question you are answering on this page as it is designated in the exam.

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Thomas Paine was educated and well-credible man. In 1791 he wrote the Rights of Man, discussing who the infant nation of America is so unique. It is comprised of ~~some~~ much different backgrounds yet it works in good harmony. It is also described to be a land where everybody is equal, given many opportunity. Two-hundred and ~~twenty~~ years later, ~~the~~ Paine's belief still holds true even ~~so~~ though there are greater distinctions in America.

Living in such a great city such as New York City, it is easy to say that Paine's belief still holds true. With a population of over 8 million, there are people from all over the world adhering to all kinds of faiths. Even though there are so many different distinctions we still operate the greatest city in the world. On a personal level, I live in a mixed part of Brooklyn. There are no majorities but a great deal of

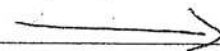


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Write in the box the number of the question you are answering (2 of 3) on this page as it is designated in the exam.

minorities. Coming from a arab muslim background, I am socially connected with spanish, whites, blacks and asians ~~and~~ adhering to different religions. There are rarely situations in which who or where we come from plays a factor. In NYC, people share their similarities and express their differences.

Opportunities are given to everybody, no matter how rich or poor you are. Paine is still correct when he says "The poor are not oppressed and the rich are not privileged". A perfect example is the transition from high school to college. Poor people have to same opportunity to enter a prestigious college as do rich people have. A system of financial aid and scholarships are awarded and can be taken advantage by the less fortunate people. This shows that no matter what economic background you came from you still have an equal



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opportunity to gaining your success.
On a political view, Paine is once
again correct. He mentioned the
different forms and habits of
government that America is accustomed
to. Today we see political leaders
with all different policies. There are
so many political distinctions, such
such as Republicans, Democrats, Greens,
Independants and so on. Even though
there are so many distinctions we
still get together and make resolutions
and laws to help make America
a better place.

As the distinctions grew over the
220 years the Paine wrote this,
his belief still holds true. In
America it doesn't matter about
your background, ~~it doesn't~~ because
everybody is entitled to an equal
opportunity and there is "nothing
to engender riots and tumults."

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For instance Thomas Paine wrote Rights of Man in 1791 wanting to show people in his country that America has a different aspect than what they believe and contribute to.

First, I will have to agree with Thomas Paine when he states that "America is made up, as it is, of (government) people from different forms and habits of government, speaking different languages, and more different in their modes of worship..."

This is true because of America today which is filled with many different nationalities and also a diverse nation.

Second Paine states that in America the poor are not oppressed and the rich are not privileged not agreeing with this statement because of the visibility of America today I have to say that Thomas had an assumption of what he thought was correct.

Third he also states if there is a country in the world where concord, according to common calculation, would be least expected,



Question 3

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it is america. which in my understanding is correct because unlike other countries we don't use royalty process such as kings, queens, prince and princess we let the people decide their presenter of the state, city and entire country.

Furthermore Thomas Paine wrote "Rights of Man" to show that america is very different from his birth country England.

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Throughout American history there have been many theories as to the makeup of this diverse nation. One of the most popular refers to America as the "great melting pot", suggesting that America is a place where all kinds of different cultures and beliefs combine to form a uniquely American identity. Thomas Paine here, however, seems to be ~~more~~ more in accord with the "tomato soup" analogy where it states that the essence of American culture is the tomato soup ~~is~~ that is, the so-called "American creed", a combination of liberty, self-government, social mobility, and economic independence, while other cultures add ingredients and spices to the soup, but does not change its nature as being a pot of tomato soup. Paine suggests that despite the diversity of American population, "the simple operation of constructing government on the principles of society and the rights of man" brings "cordial union" and serves as the basis of American society. ^{As the tomato taste is the basis of the soup.} I believe that although his assertion of diversity and the importance of rights of man seems to hold true today, that they continue to bring union is no longer accurate.

There is little doubt that America even today is largely an immigrant society. Ever since Lyndon Johnson loosened the quota system in 1965, every year ~~thousands~~ thousands, if not millions of people from all backgrounds pour into America, recently Asians and Latin Americans in predominance. However, while in the 1700s and 1800s the immigrants also came from different nations they often shared similar ~~beliefs in what a government should be~~ the European cultures as most ~~were~~ were from →

continuity, the integration of Asians and Latin Americans into a predominantly white society presents unprecedented difficulties. Community-first values held by many Asians contradict the value of personal liberty in America and most Mexicans remain loyal to their homeland, never becoming part of American society. In these cases "the principles of society and the rights of man" no longer serve as a binding force in uniting the American people; because of different cultures, these beliefs are no longer shared.

Another crucial issue in present-day America that threatens to tear the union Paine so optimistically predicts is the ever-~~more~~ radical political parties. Although both parties believe in what Paine calls "the principles of society and the rights of man", this common belief fails to unite them for they see distinctively different ways of achieving them. The recent budget standoff presents a clear example of discord, not concord, caused by our form of government — when the President and the Congress fail to agree, serious problems might occur. The arguments surrounding what the government can and should do elude Paine's characterization of America. These arguments are, however, not entirely detrimental to the American society. What Paine fails to recognize is that discord can sometimes be beneficial. When people possess the right to differ, when oppositional forces such as political parties fight to gain approval of the American people, we see possibilities of change — something only discord can initiate.

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