**UNIT ONE:**

**Question 1:**

Identify someone living today who you believe shows civic virtue. Explain the reason behind your choice

In your own words, what is classical republicanism?

What do classical republicans believe should be the goal of education? Do you agree?

What is civic virtue? What civic virtues are important to young people today and why?

What might be the consequences to individuals and a society of too great an emphasis on the common good at the expense of individual rights?

How would you describe the differences between classical republicanism and natural rights philosopher? How are those differences important in thinking about the purposes and goal of government?

What is meant by a social contract? How it is connected to the idea that government derives its authority from the consent of the governed?

Does modern America government lean more towards natural philosophy or classical republicanism? Explain and give examples

**Question 2:**

What are some of the specific parts of the Constitution that show the influence of natural rights philosophy?

In what ways did the Framers attempt to insure that individual rights would be protected under the Constitution?

What is the difference between a limited government and an unlimited government?

What is a constitution?

Why is a constitution considered a higher law, and what are the major characteristics of a higher law?

The Declaration of Independence states that the people have a right to abolish their government. When is a resolution necessary?

What is the difference between a democracy and a republic? What term most accurately describes the government created by our Constitution?

How have our ideas about individual rights expanded since the Constitution was written?

In what ways does the Declaration of Independence reflect John Locke’s social contract theory? In what ways does it reflect principles of classical republicanism?

**Question 3:**

Identify at least three characteristics of the British colonies

What do you think is the best way to explain the American colonists’ views of government? Is social contract theory or historical circumstance more important? Why?

Does American colonial history help to provide context for understanding any contemporary issues in American politics and government? Give examples

What was the Mayflower Compact and why was it drafted?

In what ways were eighteenth-century American and British societies similar and different in terms of the rights of individual liberty, equality of opportunity, suffrage and property?

How would you describe the economic, social and political conditions of life in colonial America? How did these conditions affect the development of American ideas about government?

Why was the right to vote in the colonies limited to those who owned a certain amount of property? Why were colonial governments more representative than the British government?

How were written guarantees of rights in colonial documents important to the development of America’s ideas about government?

In what ways did Americans’ colonial experience prepare them to write state constitutions after the Revolution?

How did early state constitutions reflect Americas’ fear of centralized political authority?