***Two Treatises of Government***

**By John Locke (1689)**

To understand political [government] power, we must consider the condition in which nature puts all men. It is a state of perfect freedom to do as they wish and to deal with themselves and their possessions as they think fit. They need not ask the permission of any other man…

If man in the state of nature is free, if he is absolute lord of his own person and possessions, why would he give up his freedom to live under the rules of a government? Why would he put himself under the control of any person or institution? The obvious answer is that our rights in the state of nature are constantly exposed to the attacks of others. Since most men do not concern themselves with justice, the enjoyment of rights in the state of nature is unsafe and insecure. As a result, each man joins in society with others to preserve his life, liberty, and property…

Since men hope to preserve [protect] their property by establishing a government, they will not want that government to destroy this goal. When lawmakers try to destroy or take away the property of the people, or try to reduce them to slavery, they put themselves into a state of war with the people who can then refuse to obey the laws. When lawmakers try to gain or give someone else absolute power over the lives, liberties, and property of the people, they abuse the power which the people had put into their hands. It is then the privilege of the people to establish a new government to provide for their safety and security. These principles also hold true for the ruler who helps to make laws and carry them out…

1) According to John Locke, what is life like in the state of nature (i.e.- without government)?

2) Why do people agree to live under the rules of a government?

3) What can people do if the government fails to carry out its duties?

4) If you were an absolute monarch (a king with total control), how would you feel about the ideas of John Locke?

***U.S. Declaration of Independence***

**By Thomas Jefferson (1776)**



5) Describe the purpose of the Declaration of Independence. What reasons are given for the creation of this document?

6) To what extent was the U.S. Declaration of Independence influenced by previous Enlightenment thinkers like John Locke? EXPLAIN.

7) What were the causes of the American Revolution?

8) What were the effects of the American Revolution?