

**Questions 10-18 are based on the following passage.**

This passage is adapted from Harold Ickes, "I Am an American Day" speech. Delivered May 18, 1941. Ickes was secretary of the interior under President Franklin Roosevelt.

I want to ask a few simple questions. And then I shall answer them.

What has happened to our vaunted idealism?

*Line* Why have some of us been behaving like scared  
5 chickens? Where is the million-throated, democratic voice of America?

For years it has been dinned into us that we are a weak nation; that we are an inefficient people; that we are simple-minded. For years we have been told  
10 that we are beaten, decayed, and that no part of the world belongs to us any longer.

Some amongst us have fallen for this carefully pickled tripe. Some amongst us have fallen for this calculated poison. Some amongst us have begun to  
15 preach that the "wave of the future" has passed over us and left us a wet, dead fish.

They shout—from public platforms in printed pages, through the microphones—that it is futile to oppose the "wave of the future." They cry that  
20 we Americans, we free Americans nourished on Magna Carta and the Declaration of Independence, hold moth-eaten ideas. They exclaim that there is no room for free men in the world any more and that only the slaves will inherit the earth.  
25 America—the America of Washington and Jefferson and Lincoln and Walt Whitman—they say, is waiting for the undertaker and all the hopes and aspirations that have gone into the making of America are dead too.

30 However, my fellow citizens, this is not the real point of the story. The real point—the shameful point—is that many of us are listening to them and some of us almost believe them.

I say that it is time for the great American people  
35 to raise its voice and cry out in mighty triumph what it is to be an American. And why it is that only Americans, with the aid of our brave allies—yes, let's call them "allies"—the British, can and will build the only future worth having. I mean a future, not of  
40 concentration camps, not of physical torture and mental straitjackets, not of sawdust bread or of sawdust Caesars—I mean a future when free men will live free lives in dignity and in security.

This tide of the future, the democratic future, is  
45 ours. It is ours if we show ourselves worthy of our culture and of our heritage.

But make no mistake about it; the tide of the democratic future is not like the ocean tide—regular, relentless, and inevitable. Nothing in human affairs is  
50 mechanical or inevitable. Nor are Americans mechanical. They are very human indeed.

What constitutes an American? Not color nor race nor religion. Not the pedigree of his family nor the place of his birth. Not the coincidence of  
55 his citizenship. Not his social status nor his bank account. Not his trade nor his profession. An American is one who loves justice and believes in the dignity of man. An American is one who will fight for his freedom and that of his neighbor.

60 An American is one who will sacrifice property, ease, and security in order that he and his children may retain the rights of free men. An American is one in whose heart is engraved the immortal second sentence of the Declaration of Independence.

65 Americans have always known how to fight for their rights and their way of life. Americans are not afraid to fight. They fight joyously in a just cause.

We Americans know that freedom, like peace, is indivisible. We cannot retain our liberty if three-  
70 fourths of the world is enslaved. Brutality, injustice and slavery, if practiced as dictators would have them, universally and systematically, in the long run would destroy us as surely as a fire raging in our nearby neighbor's house would burn ours if we  
75 didn't help to put out his.

10

The main purpose of the speech is to

- A) recall an idyllic time in America's history.
- B) reveal the problematic nature of America's heritage.
- C) inform Americans about an imminent event.
- D) persuade Americans to live up to their purported ideals.

1

1

11

Over the course of the speech, Ickes's main focus shifts from

- A) revealing an apparent mystery to exposing the underlying truth.
- B) pretending to mock a custom to confessing his preference for it.
- C) describing a critical situation to encouraging people to respond to it.
- D) condemning a questionable initiative to offering an alternative to it.

12

As used in line 22, "hold" most nearly means

- A) resist.
- B) grasp.
- C) possess.
- D) sponsor.

13

Based on the speech, it is most logical to conclude that Ickes strongly objects to

- A) arbitrary decisions by political leaders.
- B) violations of basic human rights.
- C) idealistic approaches to foreign affairs.
- D) inaccurate reporting of political events.

14

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 7-11 ("For . . . longer")
- B) Lines 17-19 ("They shout . . . future")
- C) Lines 42-43 ("I mean . . . security")
- D) Lines 65-66 ("Americans . . . life")

15

As used in line 52, "constitutes" most nearly means

- A) motivates.
- B) comprises.
- C) appoints.
- D) declares.

16

Based on the speech, with which description of Americans would Ickes most likely agree?

- A) Americans are unwilling to trade freedom for wealth and security.
- B) Americans idolize past leaders regardless of those leaders' weaknesses.
- C) Americans fight to protect their families' physical well-being.
- D) Americans value position and pedigree above all else.

17

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 52-54 ("What . . . birth")
- B) Lines 54-56 ("Not the . . . profession")
- C) Lines 60-62 ("An American . . . free men")
- D) Lines 68-70 ("We Americans . . . enslaved")

18

One major claim that Ickes makes in the speech is that Americans are threatened by

- A) the deteriorating values of their leaders.
- B) an excess of national pride.
- C) oppression and injustice abroad.
- D) citizens' increasing selfishness.