

**Questions 31-41 are based on the following passage.**

This passage is adapted from a speech delivered in 1905 by Lucy Eldine Gonzalez Parsons, "The Principles of Anarchism." Parsons was a political activist.

I think I cannot open my address more appropriately than by stating my experience in my long connection with the reform movement.

Line It was during the great railroad strike of 1877 that  
5 I first became interested in what is known as the  
"Labor Question."<sup>1</sup> I then thought as many thousands  
of earnest, sincere people think, that the aggregate  
power operating in human society, known as  
10 government, could be made an instrument in the  
hands of the oppressed to alleviate their sufferings.  
But a closer study of the origin, history and tendency  
of governments convinced me that this was a mistake.

I came to understand how organized governments  
used their concentrated power to retard progress by  
15 their ever-ready means of silencing the voice of  
discontent if raised in vigorous protest against the  
machinations of the scheming few, who always did,  
always will and always must rule in the councils of  
nations where majority rule is recognized as the only  
20 means of adjusting the affairs of the people.

I came to understand that such concentrated  
power can be always wielded in the interest of the few  
and at the expense of the many. Government in its  
last analysis is this power reduced to a science.

25 Governments never lead; they follow progress. When  
the prison, stake or scaffold can no longer silence the  
voice of the protesting minority, progress moves on a  
step, but not until then.

I will state this contention in another way: I  
30 learned by close study that it made no difference what  
fair promises a political party, out of power, might  
make to the people in order to secure their  
confidence, when once securely established in control  
of the affairs of society; that they were after all but  
35 human with all the human attributes of the politician.  
Among these are: First, to remain in power at all  
hazards; if not individually, then those holding  
essentially the same views as the administration must  
be kept in control. Second, in order to keep in power,  
40 it is necessary to build up a powerful machine; one  
strong enough to crush all opposition and silence all  
vigorous murmurs of discontent, or the party  
machine might be smashed and the party thereby lose  
control.

45 When I came to realize the faults, failings,  
shortcomings, aspirations and ambitions of fallible  
man, I concluded that it would not be the safest nor  
best policy for society, as a whole, to entrust the  
management of all its affairs, with all their manifold  
50 deviations and ramifications in the hands of finite  
man, to be managed by the party which happened to  
come into power, and therefore was the majority  
party, nor did it then, nor does it now make one  
particle of difference to me what a party out of power  
55 may promise; it does not tend to allay my fears of  
[what] a party, when entrenched and securely seated  
in power might do to crush opposition, and silence  
the voice of the minority, and thus retard the onward  
step of progress.

60 My mind is appalled at the thought of a political  
party having control of all the details that go to make  
up the sum total of our lives. Think of it for an  
instant, that the party in power shall have all  
authority to dictate the kind of books that shall be  
65 used in our schools and universities; government  
officials editing, printing, and circulating our  
literature, histories, magazines and press, to say  
nothing of the thousand and one activities of life that  
a people engage in, in a civilized society.

70 To my mind, the struggle for liberty is too great  
and the few steps we have gained have been won at  
too great a sacrifice, for the great mass of the people  
of this twentieth century to consent to turn over to  
any political party the management of our social and  
75 industrial affairs. For all who are at all familiar with  
history know that men will abuse power when they  
possess it. For these and other reasons, I, after careful  
study, and not through sentiment, turned from a  
sincere, earnest, political Socialist<sup>2</sup> to the non-  
80 political phase of Socialism—Anarchism<sup>3</sup>—because  
in its philosophy I believe I can find the proper  
conditions for the fullest development of the  
individual units in society, which can never be the  
case under government restrictions.

<sup>1</sup> The question of how to preserve the rights of the worker in an industrial society

<sup>2</sup> One who espouses a belief that the production and distribution of goods should be controlled by the government

<sup>3</sup> A belief that opposes any form of authority in society

31

In the passage, Parsons mainly presents herself as someone who is

- A) rational in her analysis of political history.
- B) resentful over a recent turn of political events.
- C) conflicted about the future role of political parties.
- D) sympathetic to more than one political perspective.

32

A primary purpose of Parsons's speech is to

- A) discuss a political philosophy that is starting to lose favor.
- B) outline a new approach to meeting the needs of oppressed groups.
- C) provide a rationale for adopting a different ideology.
- D) bring to light inconsistencies within the current political system.

33

In the passage, Parsons indicates that she once believed that

- A) majority rule eliminates the need for individual activism.
- B) mobilization of the few benefits the majority.
- C) progress occurs when everyone works together toward a common goal.
- D) government can be used to make changes that citizens hope for.

34

It can reasonably be inferred from the passage that Parsons thinks positive social change will take place only when

- A) masses of people are well versed in political history.
- B) political parties become committed to reform.
- C) fewer political parties are competing for people's votes.
- D) vocal individuals compel governments to address their concerns.

35

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

- A) Lines 21-23 ("I came . . . many")
- B) Lines 25-28 ("When . . . then")
- C) Lines 29-35 ("I learned . . . politician")
- D) Lines 70-75 ("To my . . . affairs")

36

As used in line 31, "fair" most nearly means

- A) honest.
- B) pure.
- C) appealing.
- D) adequate.

37

Which argument does Parsons use to support her claim about the extent to which political parties can be trusted by voters?

- A) Political parties are inherently corrupt because human nature is too easily corrupted by power.
- B) Parties often consolidate their power by making deals with opposing parties.
- C) Political parties always sacrifice their own ideals for pragmatic actions.
- D) Parties typically advance positions that are at odds with the beliefs of many of their members.

38

Based on the passage, Parsons would most likely predict that a political system that includes competing parties will consistently

- A) lead to the suppression of views deemed unfavorable.
- B) fracture into an increasing number of warring parties.
- C) impede economic growth and therefore hinder progress.
- D) foster the development of an overly scientific approach to politics.

39

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

- A) Lines 23-24 (“Government . . . science”)
- B) Lines 39-44 (“Second . . . control”)
- C) Lines 44-55 (“When . . . promise”)
- D) Lines 62-69 (“Think . . . society”)

40

According to the passage, Parsons’s support for anarchism is based on the idea that anarchism

- A) distributes wealth and property more equally among the population.
- B) is indifferent to the social status of its adherents.
- C) creates a situation that allows individuals to flourish.
- D) allows people to create an organizational structure whose leaders will champion the rights of the oppressed.

41

As used in line 81, “proper” most nearly means

- A) ordinary.
- B) decent.
- C) conventional.
- D) suitable.