



In Class Exercises Set A

Answers and Explanations

- 1) (Blueprints may vary)
 - P1: Freedom means no control – some controls are subtle and elusive.
 - P2: One freedom is from legal penalties, which are based on morals of majority.
 - P3: Other freedoms are from economic punishment and from distorted alternatives.
 - P4: True freedom comes from competition of ideas
 - P5: Doubting our beliefs like in science will take us closer to truth.
- 2) The answer is **C**. Russell advocates taking a scientific approach and promoting the freedom to doubt to solve the present lack of freedom of expression. His position is not that a tradition is good (A), nor is he questioning the feasibility of any undertaking (D). B is close, but Russell stresses the importance, not the urgency. The SAT commonly gives choices that are too extreme or general, so watch out for these questions.
- 3) The answer is **B**. The best meaning of the word as used in the passage is that speech is not free when there is pressure from society to think a certain way. Compulsion is the noun form of “to compel,” but hopefully you knew that in context, outside desire, dereliction, and misunderstanding would not make sense.
- 4) The answer is **C**. Subtle & elusive control.
- 5) The answer is **A**. By comparing the exclusion of certain ideas to the torture of the Inquisition, Russell criticizes people who want to exclude “immoral” thought. Even with no idea what the Spanish Inquisition is (Nobody expects the Spanish Inquisition!), context can reveal the correct answer. Choice B is incorrect because Russell does not specifically mention religion (only morality). Choice C is incorrect since Russell does not take a stance on the Western world, and since there is similarly no argument for excluding people, Choice D is incorrect.
- 6) The correct answer is **B**. The best choice is clearly the one that mentions people who take objection to “monstrous” opinions, who Russell criticizes by comparing them to persecutors of Jews and Muslims. Wrong answers have their wrong evidence equivalents, meaning if you missed this question, you probably also missed the previous.
- 7) The answer is **B**. Protestantism is used as an example because although it was once hated in society, it is now the norm. Russell invites the reader to draw a similar conclusion about ideas like Bolshevism that are in the minority. Without espousing said ideas, society must allow for their development and contestation.
- 8) The answer is **C**. Russell states “various” reasons” keep true freedom from being realized; indeed, the general structure of his passage is enumerating these freedoms before providing a potential resolution. Choice A misinterprets an early mention of economic penalties, and Russell lists obstacles but does not have any pessimism in his statement of doubt as a solution, nixing Choice B. Choice D states a priority that Russell never draws (incorrect answers commonly use stated evidence but draw an incorrect conclusion).
- 9) The answer is **D**. Russell believes that a certain degree of error is always present in human ideas, but that this error is reduced with time if we acknowledge that our ideas may be flawed. A and C are way off the mark: Russell does not find the error frustrating or untrue. B is close, but not quite there. While acknowledging the potential for error is in fact what scientists do, Russell thinks that it is necessary to note that the error exists.
- 10) The answer is **C**. This choice is good: Russell elaborates on how precisely one can reduce error but stresses the importance of rejecting any given idea (acknowledge the potential for error). The use of “hearing all sides” is key, as it implies that one considers all sides, meaning that one has acknowledged the potential for error.
- 11) The answer is **D**. Along the same lines as the previous two questions, Russell believes that the only for freedom of thought to exist is if there exists opposition that can “test” a particular thought. For Russell, legal restrictions aren’t enough, so A is out. B and C are untrue: Russell loves dissent within a community and doesn’t want to restrict the scope of freedom.
- 12) The answer is **B**. Russell uses a variety of examples of how speech can be restricted to arrive at the conclusion that we should support the will to doubt. Choice A is wrong because he does not provide data, C is wrong because he is more logical than emotional, and D is wrong because Russell would say that it is good that his views are not universally held. If you felt as though you needed to pick a specific answer to be the most precise, remember that precision is good, but it is hardest to disprove a more general statement.