Who Limits the King?

Ideas and laws that shaped government in England

SS24.8.15 "Analyze the development of parliamentary and constitutional government in England. 15a Compare and contrast the political philosophies of Thomas Hobbes and John Locke..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

1 READ AND MARK

Read it twice

YOUR JOB Underline one claim about government from each thinker, circle two limits on the monarch in each document, and number the documents in the order they appeared. Use your marks to compare ideas and trace how Parliament gained power.

Power, Rights, and Parliament

1. In seventeenth-century England, arguments about who should rule grew fierce. Civil war between the king's supporters and Parliament's supporters showed how dangerous political conflict could become. Thomas Hobbes feared disorder and argued that people should give a ruler broad power in exchange for peace and safety. John Locke also wanted government to protect people, but he argued that people have natural rights to life, liberty, and property. For Locke, a government needed the people's consent. If it failed to protect their rights, people could replace it.

2. In 1628, Parliament presented the Petition of Right to King Charles I. It insisted that the king could not collect taxes without Parliament's consent or imprison people without showing a legal cause. It also opposed forcing people to house soldiers and using martial law in peacetime. Charles accepted the petition but later acted against its limits. The conflict continued and helped lead to civil war. The petition did not end royal power. Instead, it stated in writing that a ruler must obey legal limits, even when claiming to act for the nation.

3. After another struggle over royal power, Parliament offered the throne to William and Mary in 1689. The English Bill of Rights declared that monarchs could not suspend laws or raise taxes without Parliament's approval. It protected free elections and freedom of speech within Parliament. Unlike the earlier petition, this law followed a change of rulers and helped establish a lasting balance of power. Both documents checked the monarch, but the Bill of Rights gave Parliament a stronger role in governing. Neither document gave every person the right to vote or ended all unfairness.

2 ANSWER WITH EVIDENCE

Use the passage

1. What goal did Hobbes and Locke share, and how did their views about a ruler's power differ?

2. If a government failed to protect people's rights, how might Locke's response differ from the response Hobbes would likely favor? Use evidence from the passage.

3. How did the Petition of Right and the English Bill of Rights each limit a monarch's power to raise taxes?

4. How did the English Bill of Rights build on the Petition of Right to give Parliament a stronger role? Give one provision from each document.

3 YOUR TURN

Your own words

A fictional king jails a critic without giving a legal cause and suspends laws without Parliament's approval. Write four or five sentences advising Parliament: use one provision from each document to explain how Parliament could challenge him, then predict how Hobbes and Locke might differ about resisting him.

ANSWER KEY

Who Limits the King?

GRADE 8 · SS24.8.15

PART 1 · READ AND MARK

Underline one claim about government from each thinker, circle two limits on the monarch in each document, and number the documents in the order they appeared. Use your marks to compare ideas and trace how Parliament gained power. Accept any marking that follows this job and points at the right text.

PART 2 · ANSWERS

#	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	What goal did Hobbes and Locke share, and how did their views about a ruler's power differ?	**Both wanted government to protect people. Hobbes favored broad power for a ruler to keep peace, while Locke held that government needed the people's consent and must protect their rights.**
2	If a government failed to protect people's rights, how might Locke's response differ from the response Hobbes would likely favor? Use evidence from the passage.	**Locke argued that people could replace such a government. Hobbes would likely worry that resistance could cause disorder and favor a ruler with broad power to keep peace.**
3	How did the Petition of Right and the English Bill of Rights each limit a monarch's power to raise taxes?	**Both required Parliament's consent or approval before the monarch could raise taxes.**
4	How did the English Bill of Rights build on the Petition of Right to give Parliament a stronger role? Give one provision from each document.	**The Petition of Right required Parliament's consent for taxes. The Bill of Rights also barred monarchs from suspending laws without Parliament's approval and protected free elections and speech in Parliament.**

PART 3 · YOUR TURN (SAMPLE ANSWER)

Parliament should challenge the king's actions. The Petition of Right opposed imprisonment without a legal cause, so Parliament could demand that the king state one. The English Bill of Rights barred a monarch from suspending laws without Parliament's approval, so Parliament could insist that those laws still apply. Hobbes might fear that resistance would bring disorder and favor keeping a strong ruler. Locke might argue that people can replace a government that fails to protect their rights.

Accept other accurate provisions and explanations grounded in the passage. Predictions about Hobbes should be framed as likely, not as a claim that he addressed this fictional case.