



# AMERICAN GOVERNMENT



## LESSON TWELVE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Quiz

1. When were the principles of the Declaration of Independence developed?
  - A) On July 2nd, 1776
  - B) Long before 1776, through the understanding of liberty over centuries
  - C) Immediately after the Lee Resolution was passed
  - D) On July 4th, 1776
2. Who was the primary author of the Declaration of Independence?
  - A) John Adams
  - B) Benjamin Franklin
  - C) George Washington
  - D) Thomas Jefferson
3. Which document heavily influenced Thomas Jefferson's understanding of "the pursuit of happiness"?
  - A) Magna Carta
  - B) Cato's Letters, specifically letter number 68
  - C) The English Bill of Rights
  - D) The Mayflower Compact
4. According to Cato's Letters, what is the relationship between independence and happiness?
  - A) Independence is irrelevant to happiness
  - B) Happiness can only be achieved through independence
  - C) Happiness is a temporary state, unrelated to independence
  - D) Independence results from governmental control
5. What does the "pursuit of happiness" mean in the context of the Declaration of Independence?
  - A) The right to pursue wealth
  - B) The right to pursue personal desires, regardless of others
  - C) The right to pursue independence through property ownership
  - D) The right to pursue leisure and entertainment



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6. What is required for true independence according to Cato's Letters?
- A) Freedom from taxes
  - B) Freedom from debt and dependency
  - C) Freedom from government
  - D) Freedom from laws
7. What did Thomas Jefferson believe about the source of rights such as life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness?
- A) They are granted by the government
  - B) They are given by the Constitution
  - C) They are endowed by the Creator
  - D) They are earned through citizenship
8. Why is property ownership important in the concept of liberty discussed in the Declaration of Independence?
- A) It signifies wealth and status
  - B) It ensures independence and freedom from reliance on others
  - C) It allows individuals to vote
  - D) It guarantees happiness
9. According to the Declaration of Independence, what is the primary role of government?
- A) To create laws for the people to follow
  - B) To secure the rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness
  - C) To control economic activities
  - D) To establish a monarchy
10. What does the phrase "deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed" imply about government authority?
- A) Government has absolute power
  - B) Government power is legitimate only if it has the consent of the people
  - C) Government power comes from the military
  - D) Government power is granted by the Constitution alone



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### Essay Questions:

1. Discuss the philosophical and historical influences on Thomas Jefferson as he drafted the Declaration of Independence. How did his understanding of liberty shape the document?
2. Analyze the significance of the phrase "pursuit of happiness" in the Declaration of Independence. How does this concept relate to property ownership and independence, as explained in Cato's Letters?
3. Evaluate the role of government as defined in the Declaration of Independence. What is the relationship between government power and the consent of the governed?
4. Examine the concept of "unalienable rights" as presented in the Declaration of Independence. How does this idea contrast with the notion of rights being granted by governments or laws?
5. Consider the implications of the statement that governments are instituted to secure rights. How does this principle guide the creation and limitation of government authority according to the Declaration of Independence?



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### Answers

- 1.B
- 2.D
- 3.B
- 4.B
- 5.C
- 6.B
- 7.C
- 8.B
- 9.B
- 10.B