

Controversy Passage 1

1. This is a purpose of the passage question. **The correct answer is D.**
- (A) No. The author is criticizing the assertion that John Webster was not a competent playwright.
- (B) No. The author is criticizing the commonly held view that John Webster was not a competent playwright.
- (C) No. Though the author does offer an explanation for the apparent contradictions in John Webster's characters, he does so not to answer an unresolved question but to counter the assertion that John Webster was not a competent playwright.
- (D) Yes. The author is pointing out that those who criticize the works of John Webster fail to recognize the subtle complexity of his tragedies. Hence, the critics incorrectly attribute seeming contradictions in a character's personality to poor writing.
- (E) No. The author is describing an opposing viewpoint: that John Webster was not a competent playwright. But he does so to introduce the main idea—that Webster's plays are more complex and subtle than critics realize.
2. This is a search question. **The correct answer is A.**
- (A) Yes. *"Yet Webster seems not to have been as heavily influenced by the morality play's model of reality [a battle between good and evil] as were his Elizabethan contemporaries; he was apparently more sensitive to the more morally complicated Italian drama than to these English sources."*
- (B) No. Most Elizabethan tragedies were derived from Renaissance and medieval theater, not from Italian sources.
- (C) No. The author states that critics do not understand John Webster's works, but he does not suggest that critics do not understand the works that influenced Webster.
- (D) No. It is the Renaissance and medieval theater that have recently been discovered to illuminate Elizabethan drama. But it was Italian drama that influenced Webster.
- (E) No. The author implies that the critics of Webster do not realize that the true source for Webster's plays was Italian drama.
3. This is a purpose of the phrase question. **The correct answer is B.**
- (A) No. The commonly held view of Webster's plays apparently overlooks Aristotle's view of tragedy. The author introduces Aristotle to support his own, novel interpretation.
- (B) Yes. *"The ancient Greek philosopher Aristotle implied that such contradictions [a character that is both good and evil] are virtually essential to the tragic personality, and yet critics keep coming back to this element of inconsistency as though it were an eccentric [odd] feature of Webster's own tragic vision."*
- (C) No. The author is suggesting that Webster's tragedies should

- be viewed from the perspective of the Greek tragedy.
- (D) No. The modern (Elizabethan) approach views tragedy as a battle between pure good and pure evil, while the classical (Aristotelian) approach sees internal contradictions and duality of character as the essence of tragedy.
- (E) No. The author is criticizing recent scholarship (critics).
4. This is an inference question. **The correct answer is C.**
- (A) No. Modern critics fail to see the duality of human nature—that a person can have both good and evil characteristics—as an essential part of Webster’s ambiguous characters. The critics see these characters as a flaw in Webster’s work, a view the author criticizes.
- (B) No. Modern critics’ interpretations of Webster’s tragedies are invalid precisely because they fail to realize that Webster’s conception of the tragic personality is similar to that of Aristotle.
- (C) Yes. The point of the passage is that the critics inappropriately view Webster’s tragedies from the perspective of a morality play rather than from the perspective of Italian drama. Had Webster been more heavily influenced by morality plays, the critics would be correct in attacking the competency of his work.
- (D) No. This would make their interpretations even less valid. The critics mistakenly believe that because Webster was an Elizabethan playwright his main influence was the Renaissance morality play. However, Webster was actually influenced more by Italian drama.
- (E) No. In his criticism of modern critics, the author praises Webster for creating dramatic conflict which “*is ours as much as that of the characters.*”
5. This is an attitude question. **The correct answer is C.**
- (A) No. The skill of Elizabethan dramatists is not discussed.
- (B) No. Although Webster was an Elizabethan playwright, his work exemplified the conventions that shaped Italian drama, not Elizabethan drama.
- (C) Yes. “*Morality plays allegorized that conflict [the battle between good and evil] by presenting characters whose actions were defined as the embodiment of good or evil. This model of reality lived on, overlaid by different conventions, in the more sophisticated Elizabethan works of the following age.*”
- (D) No. Although Webster was an Elizabethan playwright, his work was based on Italian drama. So studying his Elizabethan contemporaries would probably yield a mistaken view of his accomplishments, which is what the passage implies.
- (E) No. It was Webster’s work, not Elizabethan drama, that was influenced by a composite of Italian and classical sources: “*Yet Webster seems not to have been as heavily influenced by the morality play’s model of reality as were his Elizabethan contemporaries; he was*”

apparently more sensitive to the more morally complicated Italian drama than to these English sources."

6. This is an inference question. **The correct answer is E.**

- (A) No. Webster's contemporaries tended to allegorize the conflict between good and evil. His plays were more complicated and subtle, which most modern critics fail to realize.
- (B) No. The point of the passage is that the critics inappropriately view Webster's tragedies from the perspective of a morality play (an English source), rather than from the perspective of Italian drama.
- (C) No. The critics fail to realize that Webster's tragedies were based on the classical definition of tragedy.
- (D) No. Modern critics assume that Webster's work provides some, albeit a flawed, basis for analyzing the moral development of characters: "*[Modern critics] choose what seem to be the most promising of the contradictory values that are dramatized in [Webster's] play, and treat those values as if they were the only basis for analyzing the moral development of the play's major characters, attributing the inconsistencies in a character's behavior to artistic incompetence*

on Webster's part." This is the method that the author criticizes.

- (E) Yes. The point of the passage is that the critics inappropriately view Webster's tragedies from the perspective of a morality play (which was the source for his contemporary Elizabethan playwrights), rather than from the perspective of Italian drama.

7. This is an inference question. **The correct answer is D.**

- (A) No. The author argues against those who criticize Webster's conception of tragedy.
- (B) No. His was unconventional. His contemporaries based their concept of tragedy on the morality play, whereas Webster based his concept of tragedy on Italian or classical drama.
- (C) No. His contemporaries based their conception of tragedy on the morality play. He based his conception of tragedy on Italian or classical drama.
- (D) Yes. The conventional Elizabethan conception of tragedy was based on the morality play from English medieval theater, whereas Webster's conception of tragedy was based on Italian drama.
- (E) No. The passage states that Webster's conception of tragedy was heavily influenced by the classical conception of tragedy, unlike his contemporaries.

Controversy Passage 2

8. This is a main point question. **The correct answer is C.**

(A) No. The Dawes Act prohibited the sale of Native American lands to non-Native Americans.

(B) No. *“Selling land to each other would not threaten the Native American culture.”*

(C) Yes. This is summarized in the final sentence of the passage: *“One hypothesis, then, for the temporary restriction on alienation in the Dawes Act is that it reflected a compromise between non-Native Americans favoring immediate alienability so they could purchase land and the BIA bureaucrats who administered the privatization system.”*

(D) No. This explains *how* the United States governmental activity in the area of land administration expanded but does not explain *why* it expanded. In other words, who benefited from the expansion?

(E) No. This contradicts the passage: *“Until allotment was ended in 1934, granting fee patents and leasing Native American lands were among the principal activities of the United States government.”*

9. This is a strengthen question. **The correct answer is C.**

(A) No. The passage implies that politicians were motivated by their own self-interest.

(B) No. This argues to continue the act.

(C) Yes. Political patronage is presented as a motivating factor behind the act: *“It has been convincingly demonstrated that bureaucrats seek to maximize the size of their staffs and their budgets in order to compensate for the lack of other sources of fulfillment, such as power and prestige. Additionally, politicians tend to favor the growth of governmental bureaucracy because such growth provides increased opportunity for the exercise of political patronage.”*

(D) No. This is unlikely since *“It has been convincingly demonstrated that bureaucrats seek to maximize the size of their staffs and their budgets in order to compensate for the lack of other sources of fulfillment, such as power and prestige.”*

(E) No. This argues to continue the act since the act initially prohibited selling Native American land to non-Native Americans.

10. This is an organization question. **The correct answer is D.**

(A) No. The passage is concerned with the motivations for the Dawes Act, not with its benefits and drawbacks.

(B) No. The Act was repealed in 1934 long before the passage was written.

(C) No. The permanent effects of the law are not mentioned.

(D) Yes. The first paragraph describes the Dawes Act. The second paragraph puts forward a

rationale for one of its clauses: “Two main reasons were advanced for the restriction on the Native Americans’ ability to sell their lands.” The third paragraph dismisses the rationale: “However, both of these arguments bear only on the transfer of Native American lands to non-Native Americans; neither offers a reason for prohibiting Native Americans from transferring land among themselves.” Finally, the closing paragraph puts forward a different rationale for the clause, namely, the self-interest of bureaucrats: “While neither Native Americans nor the potential non-Native American purchasers benefited from the restraint on alienation contained in the Dawes Act, one clearly defined group did benefit: the BIA bureaucrats.”

- (E) No. The passage implies that only bureaucrats benefited from the passage, and they are not a rival group to the Native Americans.

11. This is an attitude question. **The correct answer is E.**

- (A) No. Just the opposite. He is incredulous: “However, both of these arguments bear only on the transfer of Native American lands to non-Native Americans; neither offers a reason for prohibiting Native Americans from transferring land among themselves. Selling land to each other would not threaten the Native American culture. Additionally, if communal land use remained preferable to

Native Americans after allotment, free alienability would have allowed allottees to sell their lands back to the tribe.” Finally, the author calls the government’s rationale for the restriction on alienability “empty.”

- (B) No. He disapproves of the reasons: “However, both of these arguments bear only on the transfer of Native American lands to non-Native Americans; neither offers a reason for prohibiting Native Americans from transferring land among themselves. Selling land to each other would not threaten the Native American culture. Additionally, if communal land use remained preferable to Native Americans after allotment, free alienability would have allowed allottees to sell their lands back to the tribe.” Finally, the author calls the government’s rationale for the restriction on alienability “empty.”
- (C) No. He clearly discounts the reasons advanced: “However, both of these arguments bear only on the transfer of Native American lands to non-Native Americans; neither offers a reason for prohibiting Native Americans from transferring land among themselves. Selling land to each other would not threaten the Native American culture. Additionally, if communal land use remained preferable to Native Americans after allotment, free alienability would have allowed allottees to sell their lands back to the tribe.”

- Finally, the author calls the government's rationale for the restriction on alienability "empty."
- (D) No. He strongly questions their merit: "*However, both of these arguments bear only on the transfer of Native American lands to non-Native Americans; neither offers a reason for prohibiting Native Americans from transferring land among themselves. Selling land to each other would not threaten the Native American culture. Additionally, if communal land use remained preferable to Native Americans after allotment, free alienability would have allowed allottees to sell their lands back to the tribe.*" Finally, the author calls the government's rationale for the restriction on alienability "empty."
- (E) Yes. This is the thrust of the third paragraph: "*However, both of these arguments bear only on the transfer of Native American lands to non-Native Americans; neither offers a reason for prohibiting Native Americans from transferring land among themselves. Selling land to each other would not threaten the Native American culture. Additionally, if communal land use remained preferable to Native Americans after allotment, free alienability would have allowed allottees to sell their lands back to the tribe.*" Finally, the author calls the government's rationale for the restriction on alienability "empty."
12. This is an inference question. **The correct answer is B.**
- (A) No. There is no mention of farming in the passage.
- (B) Yes. The passage states that Native Americans preferred communal use of land and were unfamiliar with the concept of private ownership of land: "*A second objection to free alienation was that Native Americans were unaccustomed to, and did not desire, a system of private landownership.*"
- (C) No. The Dawes Act legislated wide-scale private ownership of land by Native Americans. So ostensibly Native Americans owned little or no land before the Dawes Act.
- (D) No. There is no discussion in the passage of the contact between Native Americans and their non-Native American neighbors.
- (E) No. The restriction on the Native Americans' ability to sell their lands was prompted in part by the concern "*that free alienability would lead to immediate transfer of large amounts of former reservation land to non-Native Americans, consequently threatening the traditional way of life on those reservations.*" Although the author rejects this reason, it is not because he disagreed that free alienability would lead to the transfer of large amounts of former reservation land to non-Native Americans.

13. This is a detail question. **The correct answer is B.**

- (A) No. There is no mention of farming in the passage.
- (B) Yes. *“However, the Native Americans were not granted outright title to their lands. The act defined each grant as a “trust patent,” meaning that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), the governmental agency in charge of administering policy regarding Native Americans, would hold the allotted land in trust for 25 years, during which time the Native American owners could use, but not alienate (sell) the land. After the 25-year period, the Native American allottee would receive a “fee patent” awarding full legal ownership of the land.”*
- (C) No. For the first 25 years, the government had some control over how owners disposed of land. After 25 years, the owners of the land obtained unrestricted ownership.
- (D) No. The only restriction was that owners could not sell their land.

(E) No. There is no mention of this in the passage.

14. This is a strengthen question. **The correct answer is D.**

- (A) No. From the passage, we cannot determine whether this would benefit or hurt the legislators.
- (B) No. The passage does not indicate how Native American landowners who had fee patent privileges disposed of their landholdings.
- (C) No. This is irrelevant.
- (D) Yes. The point of the passage is that the Dawes Act was motivated by the self-interest of bureaucrats: *“While neither Native Americans nor the potential non-Native American purchasers benefited from the restraint on alienation contained in the Dawes Act, one clearly defined group did benefit: the BIA bureaucrats.”*
- (E) No. There is no mention of farming in the passage.