

51 Religion and Reform

Use the excerpt and your knowledge of social studies to answer the following questions.

Answers
1. C 2. D

"I ask for, not at once no government, but at once a better government. . . . Can there not be a government in which the majorities do not virtually decide right and wrong, but conscience?— in which majorities decide only those questions to which the rule of expediency is applicable? Must the citizen ever for a moment, or in the least degree, resign his conscience to the legislator? Why has every man a conscience then? I think that we should be men first, and subjects afterward. . . ."

—Henry David Thoreau, *Civil Disobedience*, 1849

1. For what kind of government did Thoreau advocate?
 - A none
 - B limited
 - C better
 - D larger
2. What did the concept of civil disobedience mean to Thoreau?
 - A bowing to public pressure
 - B bearing arms against dissenters
 - C bending to government power
 - D remaining true to one's conscience