

Group Questions for Tuesday, 11/19

The First Discourse:

1. Where was Sesostris from?
2. How does Rousseau describe what happened to the Romans that led to their downfall?
3. Rousseau asks, "Is virtue inconsistent . . .? with WHAT?"
4. Rousseau states, ". . . every useless citizen can be regarded as . . ." WHAT?
5. Rousseau recommends that an empire choose to be brilliant rather than virtuous and enduring. He claims, however, that an empire occupied by trivial pursuits, even if it is militarily strong, will falter because it lacks WHAT?
6. Rousseau states that the Romans, and later Italy under the Medicis, fell in an identical manner. What led to the repeated downfall of the Roman Empire and then Italy under the Medicis?
7. Rousseau laments that the youth are taught everything except WHAT?
8. Rousseau sees a divide between power on one side and WHAT on the other side?
9. What does Rousseau call, "the sublime science of simple souls"?

The Social Contract, Part 1

1. In his preface, what does Rousseau say he is trying to reconcile in his project of setting out laws?
2. What is Rousseau's famous maxim that he opens "The Social Contract"?
3. What motivates the ruler to rule the people?

4. Which Greek philosopher does Rousseau identify as the first to stipulate that men are not created equal?
5. Rousseau disputes the idea that "might makes right." He goes on to argue that if men were free to disobey, it would be legitimate to do so. In this scenario, what does Rousseau say that men ignore?
6. If might does not make right, then men obey the laws out of WHAT?
7. Rousseau takes direct aim at both Thomas Hobbes and Hugo Grotius, who argued in favor of a sovereign/monarch to rule the people so that there would be an absence of civil strife. Rousseau likens men to the Greeks who enjoyed tranquility in the cave of WHAT mythical monster?
8. Rousseau agrees with John Locke in what respect?
9. Rousseau calls the following statement WHAT? "I make an agreement with you wholly at your expense and wholly for my benefit, and I shall observe it as long as I please, while you also shall observe it as long as I please."
10. What act must precede a people vowing obedience to a king and constitutes "the foundation of a society"?