ANSWER KEY WITH EXPLANATIONS

Reading Comprehension Passage 39 MCQ Test With Answers – THE STATE AND THE ARTS

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1	**B**	2	**C**	3	**D**	4	**C**	5	**E**										

Explanations

1. ***The writer is against federal funding of the arts because _____.***
✓ B) the bureaucrats never know how to select the best
Paragraph 1 gives the reason: **bureaucrats cannot help but commission mediocre work**. In other words, officials are not able to choose the best art. Not "he would eliminate all federal funding", because that is his opinion, not the reason for it.

2. ***What the government cannot do is to***
✓ C) play the role of patron of the arts properly.
Paragraph 1 says **the government does not know how to play the role of patron**. The other options (reducing postal rates, changing tax laws, funding art schools, encouraging artistic expression) are things paragraph 2 says the government **can** and should do.

3. ***The traditional American notion is that***
✓ D) it is a good thing that the people should be better educated.
Paragraph 2 says the traditional American notion is that **the enlargement of learning and expansion of knowledge are beneficial to the nation**. So it is good for people to be better educated. The passage talks about "the marketplace" for discussion, not about prices.

4. ***The writer thinks that***
✓ C) the government should not see itself in a position to pick and choose when it comes to matters of artistic expression.
The writer is against government **patronage**, meaning the government choosing and commissioning particular works, because this leads to **mediocrity**. He still wants the government to encourage the arts in general ways. Not "the government should not support libraries or art schools": paragraph 2 asks for **subsidies to libraries** and generous funding of **art schools**.

5. ***Mark the appropriate statement: The author***
✓ E) believes that the government can be of some help in supporting the arts.
Paragraph 2 says **I believe that government can help**, by encouraging the arts through libraries, postal rates, tax laws and art schools. Not "thinks that patronage and encouragement are one and the same": the author says **it is necessary to distinguish** between them.

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