1. **Why would Thoreau's essay be called "Civil Disobedience"?**

Thoreau’s argues, through his essay, that the government does a disservice to those it serves.

1. **According to Thoreau, what is the definition of a government?**

Government is an agent of corruption and injustice. Meaning, though the law never made one man more important or powerful than the other, the case is just that. Those in power are assumed to be more powerful and important and their decisions are implemented because of that, a disservice to some people or another (or all).

1. **Thoreau suggests that "We should be men first, and subjects afterward." What is the difference between the two? Why do you think Thoreau makes this suggestion?**

I think the difference Thoreau is referring to is that as “men” everyone is equal, and their consciences are treated with the same manner of respect. As “subjects” one’s conscience or opinion (men) is held above others (subjects). Thoreau makes this suggestion because the base of his argument through his essay is that no one conscience is worth more than another, and, therefore, should not carry more weight.

1. **Do you think Thoreau looks down on soldiers, captains, generals, etc.? Support your answer with textual evidence (from what he actually says in his essay).**

When Thoreau says, “such command no more respect than men of straw or lump of dirt. They have the same sort of worth only as horses and dogs,” he is massively disrespecting the military. He tries to combat this statement by claiming “yet such as these even are commonly esteemed good citizens,” but that does not outweigh the harsh words he has already used to describe military workers. He also claims, “he who gives himself entirely to his fellow-men appear to them useless and selfish; but he who gives himself partially to them is pronounced a benefactor and philanthropist.”

1. **What examples does he cite of conscientious men that were made the enemies of society (but were later vindicated and are now held in high esteem)?**

Thoreau makes the military out to be nobodies and gives the impression that they are a waste of money, however, in today’s society the military is highly respected.

He also makes the government out to be nothing more than a tradition: “It does not keep the country free. It does not settle the West. It doesn’t educate.”

1. **How does Thoreau exercise "civil disobedience"? What happens as a result? Does his action fit in with your view of active citizenship? What else would you have done if you were in his shoes during his time period?**

Civil disobedience is refusing to follow the laws as a way of protest. One instance Thoreau mentions he did not pay poll taxes for six years and was thrown into jail once for this, stating how foolishness the situation and treatment was. A lot of what he is writing about is centered around making the best decision based on his own beliefs and conscience. I don’t necessarily agree with deliberately breaking the law as a form of protest, but I do agree with a lot of what Thoreau argues.