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

The essay is called “Civil Disobedience” because Thoreau encourages people to non- violently protest the government when they do not agree. The definition of civil disobedience is the “refusal to comply with certain laws or to pay taxes and fines, as a peaceful form of political protest” (dictionary.com) and throughout the essay he encourages citizen to refuse paying taxes and following laws created by our government.

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

Government is an entity that should not interject with its people. It should be something that allows its people to do as they please and not harm them.

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?

When Thoreau said that men are first and subjects are second, I believe he was talking about people being first, as human beings, then labels.

That means that people should be able to live as they please and be themselves first and then have to listen to someone else next. He believes that people should be people without the government’s ruling.

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).

He does seem to look down on soldiers, captains, generals and others because they have to do things against their wills" and he compares them to living machines.

5) 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)?

The examples he gave of enemies were Christ, Copernicus, Luther, Washington, and Franklin. They all were criticized for having their unique thoughts and ideas but are now held to a high honor.

6) 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?

He exercises his “civil disobedience” by writing a letter, which is still popular to today. He also did not pay is poll tax because he disagreed with some of the government policies. Because of that, he spent the night in jail. This action does not ift in my view of active citizenship because of the way he disagreed. Honestly, if I was in his shoes I would have talked to my friends and family about the issues to raise awareness and still payed the tax. This way he would have had his opinions hears, without having to break the law.