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

Because the civil aspect is of his views on the war against Mexico and Great Britain. And disobedience is the aspect of President James Pulke and the decisions he made when he was in charge of America.

2) According to Thoreau, what is the definition of a government?

Thoreau believed that a government is "That government is best which governs least"

So in other words he is saying a government should be a system that isn’t so active and should be a background organization.

3) 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?

Thoreau talks about every man having a conscious and how its not ‘’ desirable to cultivate a respect for the law, so much as for the right’’ He believed and which is the main suggestion, is that we as men are responsible for doing that right thing, that should be our major concern and primary right to uphold.

4) 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).

I think Thoreau does look down on soldiers and others. He talks about them marching up hills against their will, common sense and conscious. Thoreau says ‘’ Now, what are they? Men at all? or small movable forts and magazines, at the service of some unscrupulous man in power?’’ I believe that Thoreau is almost labeling these people as products to the higher authority who makes the decisions for the collective.

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)?

He uses the example of ‘’ but a corporation of conscientious men is a corporation with a conscience. Law never made men a whit more just; and, by means of their respect for it, even the well-disposed are daily made the agents of injustice.’’

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?

Firstly, I’m not sure I’d change a great deal. Reading the essay, I do agree with the logic behind Thoreau’s philosophy, there are times where he may have exceeded the level of truth and extent he needed to, but for the most part he does make a good argument. For me, Civil disobedience is about the individual living within themselves and like I said before making the right choices. Once you strip away the political topic within the essay and look at the term from a self reflection standpoint it’s a simple ask of ‘’can I do the right thing in any given situation and can I live with my decision on my conscious.’’