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CLA Project

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Instructions

You are about to take an assessment that was designed to measure your skills in critical thinking, analytical reasoning, problem solving and written communication.

You will be answering a series of open-ended questions about a hypothetical but realistic situation. This assessment contains a series of documents that includes a range of information sources. While your personal values and experiences are important, *you should base your response on the evidence provided in these documents.*

Scenario

The year is 1875 and you have been selected by the new Meiji government to decide whether or not the leaders of the Tokugawa family should be put on trial for misruling Japan from 1600 to 1868.

Several of the Oligarchs argue that Tokugawa rule led to terrible suffering among the peasants and samurai. They have data which they argue shows that for both groups Tokugawa rule brought a decline in livings standards. These Oligarchs also argue that the Tokugawa left Japan defenseless and open to western domination. They have studies which they argue support their position. These leaders claim that if the Tokugawa are tried and executed future governments will rule in a more efficient manner. They have academic studies that support their theory.

Other Oligarchs claim that a trial is unwarranted. They claim that the Shogun is the victim of a hostile anti-Tokugawa climate and that while peasant and samurai problems increased after 1600 their lives under the Tokugawa were far from bleak. They also have evidence which indicates that a trial would be dangerous and unwarranted.

As an advisor to the new government you have been asked to examine the information and arguments presented by both sides and make a decision as to whether or not members of the Tokugawa family should stand trial. You have been given a collection of relevant documents (1-8) which support the position held by those that advocate placing the Tokugawa on trial as well as those who oppose this plan. Read these documents thoroughly and then answer the three questions found below. Your answers to these questions should draw on the relevant documents. **Please be sure to explain the reasons for your conclusions by explicitly referring to the specific documents on which your conclusions are based.** Your work will be evaluated on the thoroughness of your content as well as how clearly you articulate and organize your information. While your personal values and experiences are important, please answer all of the questions solely on the basis of the information provided in the documents.

Question 1: Do you agree that under the Tokugawa peasant and samurai suffering increased?

Question 2: Do you agree that under the Tokugawa Japan has become defenseless?

Question 3: Do you agree that a trial and execution would promote future good government in Japan?

Explain the reasons for your conclusions, and justify those conclusions by referring to the specific documents, data, and statements on which your conclusions are based. Your answers to the questions should include the evidence necessary to support your position. Your answers will be judged not only on the accuracy of the information you provide, but also on how clearly the ideas are presented, how effectively the ideas are organized, and how thoroughly the information is covered. You have 90 minutes to complete this task.

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