

Passage adapted from "Utopia" by Thomas More (1516) in *Ideal Commonwealths: Comprising More's Utopia, Bacon's New Atlantis, Campanella's City of the Sun, and Harrington's Oceans* (1901)

Thus have I described to you, as particularly as I could, the constitution of that commonwealth, which I do not only think the best in the world, but indeed the only commonwealth that truly deserves that name. In all other places it is visible that, while people talk of a commonwealth, every man only seeks his own wealth; but there, where no man has any property, all men zealously pursue the good of the public, and, indeed, it is no wonder to see men act so differently, for in other commonwealths every man knows that unless he provides for himself, how flourishing soever the commonwealth may be, he must die of hunger, so that he sees the necessity of preferring his own concerns to the public; but in Utopia, where every man has a right to everything, they all know that if care is taken to keep the public stores full no private man can want anything, for among them there is no unequal distribution, so that no man is poor, none in necessity, and though no man has anything, yet they are all rich; for what can make a man so rich as to lead a serene and cheerful life, free from anxieties, neither apprehending want himself, nor vexed with the endless complaints of his wife? He is not afraid of the misery of his children, nor is he contriving how to raise a portion for his daughters, but is secure in this, that both he and his wife, his children and grandchildren, to as many generations as he can fancy, will all live both plentifully and happily, since, among them, there is no less care taken of those who were once engaged in labor, but grow afterwards unable to follow it, than there is, elsewhere, of these that continue still employed. I would gladly hear any man compare the justice that is among them with that of all other nations; among whom may I perish if I see anything that looks either like justice or equity; for what justice is there in this: that a nobleman, a goldsmith, a banker, or any other man, who either does nothing at all, or, at best, is employed in things that are of no use to the public, should live in great luxury and splendor upon what is so ill acquired, and a mean man, a carter, a smith, or a plowman, who works harder even than the beasts themselves, and is employed in labors so necessary, that no commonwealth could hold out a year without them, can only earn so poor a livelihood and must lead so miserable a life, that the condition of the beasts is much better than theirs? For as the beasts do not work so constantly, so they feed almost as well, and with more pleasure, and have no anxiety about what is to come, whilst these men are depressed by a barren and fruitless employment, and tormented with the apprehensions of want in their old age; since that which they get by their daily labour does but maintain them at present, and is consumed as fast as it comes in, there is no overplus left to lay up for old age.

1. What does the narrator mean when, in the underlined quotation, he says that Utopia is "indeed the only commonwealth that truly deserves that name"?

- A. Utopia is the only country that is accessible only to those who can pay for entrance.
- B. Utopia is the only country in which riches are completely shared.
- C. Utopia is the only country which can be properly called independent.
- D. Utopia is the only society in which wealth is less important than how one gets along with other people.
- E. Utopia is the only city which is completely ruled by trade.

2. Of the following choices, which does NOT describe an aspect of the passage?

- A. Comparative
- B. Critical
- C. Concerned with economics
- D. Apolitical
- E. Extolling

3. In which of the following quotations does the narrator give a reason why people consider their own wants before the public good in countries other than Utopia?

- A. "I would gladly hear any man compare the justice that is among them with that of all other nations; among whom may I perish if I see anything that looks either like justice or equity . . ."
- B. ". . . no man is poor, none in necessity, and though no man has anything, yet they are all rich; for what can make a man so rich as to lead a serene and cheerful life, free from anxieties, neither apprehending want himself, nor vexed with the endless complaints of his wife?"
- C. "For as the beasts do not work so constantly, so they feed almost as well, and with more pleasure, and have no anxiety about what is to come, whilst these men are depressed by a barren and fruitless employment, and tormented with the apprehensions of want in their old age . . ."
- D. ". . . it is no wonder to see men act so differently, for in other commonwealths every man knows that unless he provides for himself, how flourishing soever the commonwealth may be, he must die of hunger, so that he sees the necessity of preferring his own concerns to the public . . ."
- E. ". . . among them, there is no less care taken of those who were once engaged in labor, but grow afterwards unable to follow it, than there is, elsewhere, of these that continue still employed."

4. What is the narrator's opinion of bankers?

- A. The narrator thinks that bankers deserve much more money than they earn.
- B. The narrator thinks that banking is a useless but lucrative profession.
- C. The narrator thinks that banking is a necessary profession only outside of Utopia.
- D. The narrator does not specifically discuss bankers in the passage.
- E. The narrator thinks that banking is a necessary profession both in Utopia and in other countries.

5. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?

- A. The inhabitants of Utopia are extremely insular and don't know that other countries exist.
- B. The narrator believes that the Utopian constitution could be improved upon by incorporating features of other countries' founding documents.
- C. Academic work is prized above manual labor in Utopia.
- D. Utopia is just while other countries are not.
- E. Every inhabitant of Utopia performs physical labor every day, no matter his or her age.