Age of Reason Questionnaire

Below are some ideas about how people should be governed. The Age of Reason was very concerned about how society should be governed. Indicate whether you agree (A) or disagree (D) with the ideas.

1. ____ The government should encourage people to be religious by such things as having prayer in schools because it will make people behave better.

2. ____ No one should have the right to oppose the majority will of the people.

3. ____ The police should have the right to enter a person’s house and search it if they suspect the person is a criminal.

4. ____ The best way to govern is to allow the most intelligent people to make all of the decisions.

5. ____ A person should not be allowed to criticize the government if it hurts the well-being of most of the people.

6. ____ A policeman who catches a person committing a violent crime such as mugging an old lady should be allowed to shoot the criminal on the spot.

7. ____ The best way to get things done in government is to concentrate the power in the hands of a few people.

8. ____ A person charged with a crime should be forced to testify about the crime.

9. ____ It is more important for a person to have a feeling of belonging to a community and having responsibilities than to have rights.

10. ____ People who own the most property have the greatest stake in government and therefore should have the most say.

11. ____ The best way to make the rules for society is to elect people to make them.

12. ____ No one should be allowed to interfere with the rights of others.

13. ____ Everyone, no matter how rich or poor, has certain rights that should be protected by the government.

14. ____ If a ruler has too much power, he is apt to abuse it.

15. ____ A person should be allowed to say what he wants even if others don’t like it.

16. ____ People, if they are unhappy with the government, should overthrow it.

17. ____ The government should not be allowed to interfere with the privacy of a person.

18. ____ Government should seek to improve the lives of people.

19. ____ The government that benefits the most people is the best kind of government.

20. ____ A person should always have a fair trial no matter how terrible the crime.