Frederick the Great’s view on monarchies...

Key Words:
Sovereign: A supreme ruler.
Prestige: Respect or admiration for someone or something based on their achievements or quality.
State: The civil authority of a country.

A sovereign must possess an exact and detailed knowledge of the strong and of the weak points of his country. He must thoroughly understand its resources, the character of the people, and the national commerce....

Rulers should always remind themselves that they are men above their subjects. The sovereign is the foremost judge, general, financier, and minister of his country, not merely for the sake of his prestige. Therefore, he should perform with care the duties connected with these offices. He is merely the servant of the State. Hence, he must act with honesty, wisdom, and complete lack-of-bias in such a way that he can render an account of his leadership to the citizens at any moment. He is guilty if he wastes the money of the people, the taxes which they have paid, on luxuries. The monarch should improve the morals of the people, be the guardian of the law, and improve their education.

1. What are three (3) things Frederick believes a good monarch would do?
   a. 
   b. 
   c. 

2. What do you think Frederick means when he says the king is a “servant of the state”?

Princes, sovereigns, and kings have not been given supreme authority in order to live in luxury. They have not been elevated by their fellow-men to enable them to strut about and to insult with their pride the simple-mannered, the poor, and the suffering. They have not been placed at the head of the State to keep around themselves a crowd of idle loafers. The bad administration which may be found in monarchies springs from many different causes, but their principal cause lies in the character of the sovereign. A ruler addicted to women will become a tool of his mistresses and favorites, and these will abuse their power and commit wrongs of every kind, will protect vice, sell offices, and perpetrate every infamy....

3. What are three (3) things Frederick believes a monarch should not do?
   a. 
   b. 
   c.
4. Which quote from this passage would support the idea that Frederick believes monarchs are better than ordinary people?

The sovereign is the representative of his State. He and his people form a single body. Ruler and ruled can be happy only if they are firmly united. The sovereign stands to his people in the same relation in which the head stands to the body. He must use his eyes and his brain for the whole community, and act on its behalf to the common advantage. If we wish to elevate monarchies above republican governments, the duty of sovereigns is clear. They must be active, hard-working, upright and honest. That is my idea of the duties of sovereigns.

5. Under what circumstances can a ruler and his subjects live in happiness?

6. You are the king/queen of another country during the time of Frederick the Great. Write a letter to him agreeing or disagreeing with his thoughts on monarchies. Address one specific issue from the above article.

Dear Frederick the Great,

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Sincerely,

Signed: _____________________________________________________