

'Defenders of Democracy' Comprehension Extension Answers

1. Name five countries placed above Russia in the Democracy Index.

Any five from: the United Kingdom, the United States, France, Italy, Belgium, Iraq, Ethiopia, Vietnam and Togo (or any other countries directly identified from the Democracy Index map).

2. In what year was 'Animal Farm' published and why might this date be of significance?

1945 – this was the end of the Second World War, an event which had fundamentally altered the political landscape.

3. What are your thoughts about George Orwell choosing to fight in the Spanish Civil War? Support your opinion with reference to the text.

Orwell could be considered noble and brave for 'defending democracy' and backing his socialist beliefs with actions. He could also be considered naïve and foolhardy for entering into a conflict that he was 'extremely fortunate' to survive and that he evidently didn't understand since he had 'mistaken as allies' a group who tried to persecute him.

Credit any valid opinion that is supported by textual evidence.

4. How does the writer reveal a preference for socialism over fascism?

The concluding sentence suggests an empathy with and admiration for Orwell, who was 'an outspoken supporter of socialism'. Moreover, the brief synopsis of Orwell's 'Animal Farm' negatively describes the pigs who are symbolic of Soviet dictator Stalin as 'greedy', in contrast to the socialist lifespan of the farm being described as 'utopian'. The general tone of the text is pro-democracy, whereas fascism is typically authoritarian.

5. What is meant by the Duke of Wellington's comment that he had 'never seen so many shocking bad hats'?

This comment reveals his conceit and his distaste for parliamentary reform, as his adverse judgement of the new members' attire reflects the belief that only the 'old guard' should be in a position to exercise their rights and preside over the rest of the population.

6. Where do you think the UK of 1832 would have ranked on the Democracy Index? Justify your response.

The multiple democratic failings documented in the text (no secret ballot, poor representation, lack of universal suffrage, etc.) suggest that it would be a flawed democracy at best, but credit any thoughtful and logical response.