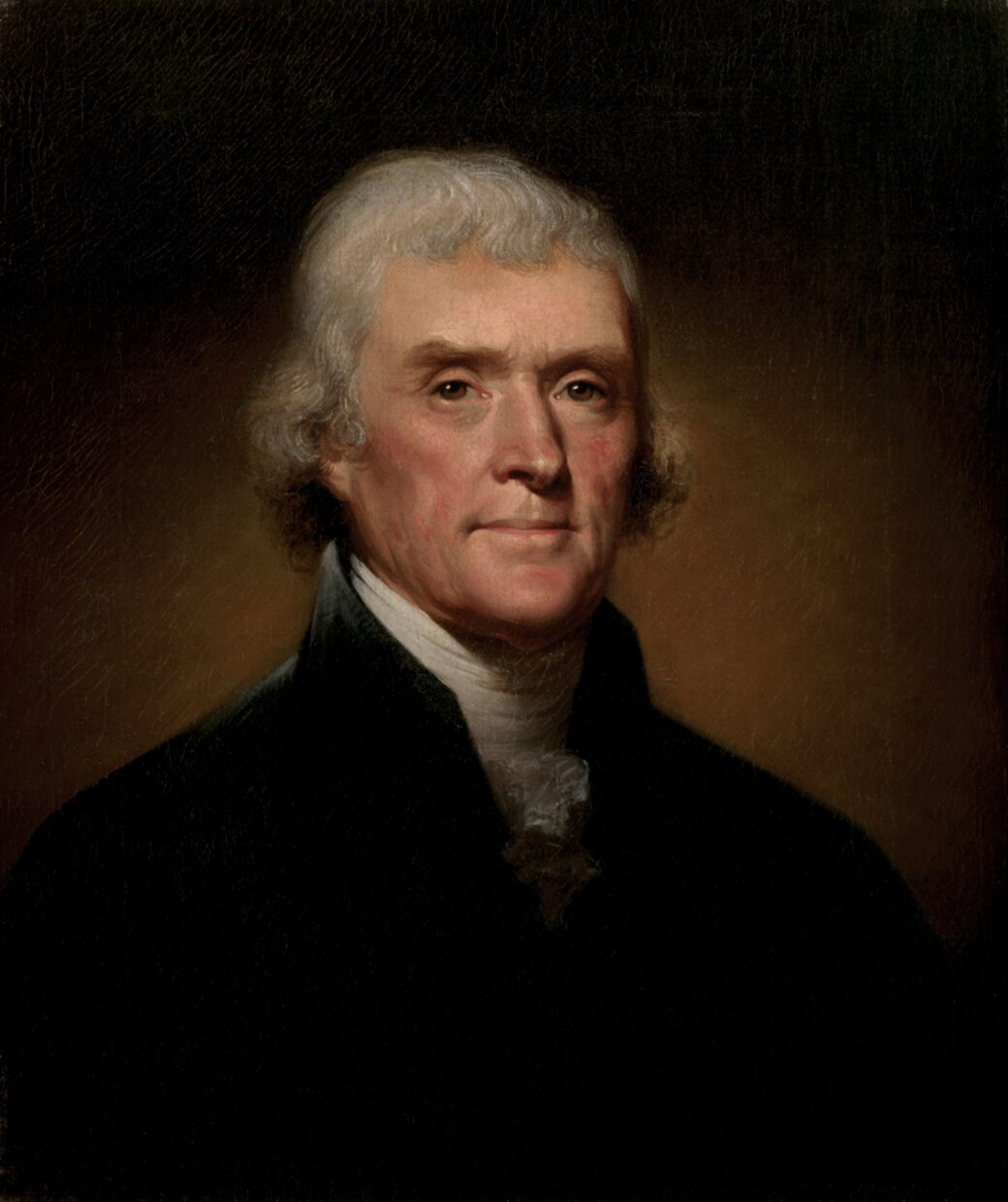
**Citizen Engagement in a Constitutional Republic -SAMPLE ANSWERS**

*Directions: Read each short primary source and complete the corresponding questions.*



| **Excerpt from a Thomas Jefferson letter to Joseph C. Cabell, 1816**  “Where every man is a sharer in the direction of his ward-republic…and feels that he is a participator in the government of affairs not merely at an election, one day in the year, but every day…” |
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1. **Rewrite Jefferson’s passage in your own words.**

Every person should be involved in their local and state community (‘ward-republic’), and not just during an election but every day.

1. **What does Jefferson imply about the importance of civic engagement?**

Civic engagement is about more than voting!

| **Excerpt from Noah Webster - *A Citizen of America: An Examination Into the Leading Principles of America*, 1787**  "In the formation of such a government, it is not only the right, but the indispensable duty of every citizen to examine the principles of it, to compare them with the principles of other governments, with a constant eye to our particular situation and circumstances, and thus endeavor to foresee the future operations of our own system, and its effects upon human happiness." |
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1. **Rewrite Webster’s passage in your own words.**

Every citizen has the duty or obligation to understand the principles and ideas of their own government. They also need to understand the principles of other governments and compare our own government to others. This will help protect our liberties in the future because we understand how it is supposed to be.

1. **What does Webster imply a good citizen must be able to do in order to fulfill their duty?**

The good citizen must be able to compare the principles and ideas of different governments and know how our government is supposed to work.

1. **Based on the passages from Jefferson and Webster, what knowledge and skills would be an important element of good citizenship?**

Knowledge of our government and how it works; knowledge of our founding principles; being able to compare governments; being able to engage civically with other people; knowing why voting matters and how to do it; knowing that voting isn’t all there is to civic engagement and civic life; knowing how to be involved in the local and state community