Sir, believe me, to conduct the Government of this

country is a most arduous duty; I may say it without

irreverence, that these ancient institutions, like our

physical frames, are “fearfully and wonderfully

*(5)* made.” It is no easy task to ensure the united action

of an ancient monarchy, a pound aristocracy, and

a reformed constituency. I have done everything I

could, do and have thought it consistent with true

Conservative policy to reconcile these three branches

(10) of the State. I have thought it consistent with true

Conservative policy to promote so much happiness

and contentment amount the people that the voice

of disaffection should be no longer heard, and that

thoughts of the disillusioned of our institutions should

(15) be forgotten in the midst of physical enjoyment.

These were may attempts, and I thought them not

inconsistent with true and enlarged Conservative

policy. These were my objects in accepting office—it

is a burden too great for my physical, and far beyond

(20) my intellectual structure; and to be relieved from it

with perfect hounour would be the greatest favor that

could be conferred on me. But as a feeling of hounour

and strong sense of duty require me to undertake those

responsible functions, I declare, Sir, that I am ready to

(25) incur these risks, to bear these burdens, and to front

all these honourale dangers. But, Sir, I will not take

the step with mutilated power and shackled authority.

I will not stand at the helm during, such tempestuous

nights as I have seen, if the vessel be not allowed to fairly

(30) to pursue the course which I think she ought to take. I

will not, Sir, undertake direct the course of the vessel

by observations which have been taken in 1842. I

will reserve to myself the marking out of that course;

and I must, for the public interest, claim for myself the

(35) unfettered power of judging of those measures which i

conceive will be better for the country to propose.

Sir, I do not wish to be the Minister of England; but

while I have the high honour of holding Office,

I am determined to hold it by no servile tenure. I

(40) will only hold that office upon the condition of being

unshackled by any other obligations than those of

consulting the public interests, and of providing for the

public safety.

*From British Prime Minister Sir Robert Peel’s speed about the*

*Repeal of the Corn Laws (1846)*

**1.** The opening sentence of the passage contains

A. an expression of fear

B. an appeal to authority

C. a humorous simile

D. an irreverent attack

E. equivocation

**2.** The speaker is addressing

A. a friend

B. a group of his peers

C. a king

D. a crowd of voters

E. his political adversaries

**3.** The most significant transition takes place in

A. line 10 ("I have thought it consistent …")

B. line 18 ("These were my objects …")

C. line 22 ("But as a feeling of honour …")

D. line 26 ("But, Sir, I will not …")

E. lines 30-31 ("I will not, Sir, undertake …")

**4.** All of the following are part of the same extended metaphor EXCEPT

A. helm (line 28)

B. vessel (line 29)

C. fairly (line 29)

D. course (line 30)

E. unshackled (line 41)

**5.** Which term in the first paragraph serves to prepare the dominant point of the final paragraph?

A. disaffection (line 13)

B. enjoyment (line 15)

C. dangers (line 26)

D. tempestuous (line 28)

E. unfettered (line 35)

**6.** Based on the passage, the speaker's motivation to serve as Prime Minister is dictated mostly by

A. greed

B. political ambition

C. sense of honor

D. political power

E. youthful exuberance

**7.** The tone of the entire passage

A. remains consistently cynical

B. shifts according to the speaker's mood

C. shifts from light to serious

D. becomes more frivolous in the final paragraph

E. remains consistently lighthearted