SKIP THE TRAPS · SOLVE THE SCALABLES

THE PASSAGE | READING COMPREHENSION

> Aristocratic government ruins itself by limiting too narrowly the circle within which power is confined; oligarchic government ruins itself by the incautious scramble for immediate wealth. But even democracy ruins itself by excess of democracy. Its basic principle is the equal right of all to hold office and determine public policy. This is, at first glance, a delightful arrangement; it becomes disastrous because the people are not properly equipped by education to select the best rulers and the wisest courses. The people have no understanding and only repeat what their rulers are pleased to tell them. Such a democracy is tyranny or autocracy. (Plato)

Which one of the following statements best reflects the crux of the passage given above?

Crux | Parallel Examples | Hidden Trap: picking the last example as the main idea

(a) Human societies experiment with different forms of governments.
The passage does not discuss experiments. It studies how each form fails.

(b) Any form of government tends to deteriorate by excess of its basic principle. ✓
Each form named ruins itself by pushing its own principle too far. This covers all three.

(c) Education of all citizens ensures a perfect, sustainable and functional democracy.
Education is a gap the passage notes, but 'ensures perfect' goes far beyond the text.

(d) Having a government is a necessary evil because tyranny is inherent in any form of government.
Government is never called evil. Tyranny appears only as democracy's end.

CRACK THE HIDDEN RULE

When a passage lists parallel examples, the crux is what they share. Three forms of government are named, and each ruins itself by an excess of its own feature.

Only an option that covers all three examples can be the crux.

Parallel examples: crux = the common thread.

ARISTOCRACY	OLIGARCHY	DEMOCRACY
Circle of power too narrow	**Scramble for wealth**	**Excess of democracy**

WORKED IN 3 CLEAN STEPS

1 Spot the parallel claims
Aristocracy ruins itself by narrowness, oligarchy by greed for wealth, democracy by excess of democracy.

2 Name the thread
Each form fails through an excess of its own basic principle.

3 Match the option
(b) states exactly this for any form. (c) covers only democracy and overstates, (a) and (d) bring in ideas the passage never states.

ANSWER: (b) Any form of government tends to deteriorate by excess of its basic principle

THE 3-SECOND SHORTCUT

Count how many examples each option covers. The crux covers all of them. Option (c) fits only the last example, which is the usual trap.

parallel examples | find the common thread | all examples covered

→ The last example is longest, so (c) feels important, but it covers only one form.
→ Words like 'necessary evil' in (d) are never in the text.

WHY ASPIRANTS LOSE MARKS HERE

1. **Choosing (c) because the democracy part is longest.** It covers one of three forms and overstates.
2. **Choosing (d) because of the word 'tyranny'.** Tyranny is democracy's end, not a feature of every government.
3. **Choosing (a) because several governments are named.** Naming is not experimenting.

ATTEMPT	FLAG	SKIP
~50 sec	if two options feel true	rarely
Find the thread across three examples.	Choose the one covering all three forms.	Strong structure, a scoreable item.

THE ONE-LINE TAKEAWAY

With parallel examples, the crux is the thread that runs through all of them.

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