

HISTORY (SAT)

This passage is adapted from a speech given by Secretary of State George Marshall at Harvard University on June 5, 1947, in which he initiates the post-World War II European aid program known as the Marshall Plan. The Marshall Plan, which Congress passed in 1948, enabled the United States to provide financial aid to European nations to assist in their recovery.

For the past ten years conditions have been highly abnormal. The feverish maintenance of the war effort engulfed all aspects of national economics. Machinery
5 has fallen into disrepair or is entirely obsolete. Under the arbitrary and destructive Nazi rule, virtually every possible enterprise was geared into the German war machine. Long-standing
10 commercial ties, private institutions, banks, insurance companies, and shipping companies disappeared, through the loss of capital, absorption through nationalization, or simple destruction. In many countries,
15 confidence in the local currency has been severely shaken. The breakdown of the business structure of Europe during the war was complete. . . . But even given a more prompt solution of these difficult problems,
20 the rehabilitation of the economic structure of Europe quite evidently will require a much longer time and greater effort than had been foreseen.

There is a phase of this matter that is
25 both interesting and serious. The farmer has always produced the foodstuffs to exchange with the city dweller for the other necessities of life. This division of labor is the basis of modern civilization. At the
30 present time it is threatened with breakdown. The town and city industries are not producing adequate goods to exchange with the food-producing farmer. Raw materials and fuel are in short supply.
35 Machinery is lacking or worn out. The

farmer or the peasant cannot find the goods for sale that he desires to purchase.... He, therefore, has withdrawn many fields from crop cultivation and is using them
40 for grazing. He feeds more grain to stock and finds for himself and his family an ample supply of food, however short he may be on clothing and the other ordinary gadgets of civilization. Meanwhile, people
45 in the cities are short of food and fuel. So the governments are forced to use their foreign money and credits to procure these necessities abroad. This process exhausts funds that are urgently needed for
50 reconstruction. Thus, a very serious situation is rapidly developing that bodes no good for the world. . . .

The remedy lies in breaking the vicious circle and restoring the confidence of the
55 European people in the economic future of their own countries and of Europe as a whole. The manufacturer and the farmer throughout wide areas must be able and willing to exchange their products for
60 currencies, the continuing value of which is not open to question.

Aside from the demoralizing effect on the world at large and the possibilities of disturbances arising as a result of the
65 desperation of the people concerned, the consequences to the economy of the United States should be apparent to all. It is logical that the United States should do whatever it is able to do to assist in the return of normal
70 economic health in the world, without which there can be no political stability and no assured peace. Our policy is directed not against any country or doctrine but against hunger, poverty, desperation, and chaos. Its
75 purpose should be the revival of working economy in the world so as to permit the emergence of political and social conditions in which free institutions can exist. Such assistance, I am convinced, must not be on
80 a piecemeal basis as various crises develop. Any assistance that this government may render in the future should provide a cure rather than a mere palliative. . . .

85 It would be neither fitting nor
efficacious for this government to undertake
to draw up unilaterally a program
designed to place Europe on its feet
economically. This is the business of the
Europeans. The initiative, I think, must
90 come from Europe. The role of this country
should consist of friendly aid in the drafting
of a European program so far as it may be
practical for us to do so. . . .

95 An essential part of any successful
action on the part of the United States is

an understanding on the part of the people
of America of the character of the problem
and the remedies to be applied. Political
passion and prejudice should have no part.
100 With foresight, and a willingness on the
part of our people to face up to the vast
responsibilities that history has clearly
placed upon our country, the difficulties I
have outlined can and will be overcome.

Source: Marshall, George. Speech given at Harvard University
on June 5, 1947. [http://www.oecd.org/general/
themarshallplanspeechatharvarduniversity5june1947.htm](http://www.oecd.org/general/themarshallplanspeechatharvarduniversity5june1947.htm)

1. The main purpose of the first paragraph (lines 1-23) is to

- A) outline events that created a problem.
- B) describe a plausible solution to a problem.
- C) advocate a faster response to a problem.
- D) question the root cause of a problem.

2. According to the author, what feeling do some European citizens exhibit toward the currency of their countries?

- A) Defensiveness
- B) Distrust
- C) Generosity
- D) Greed

3. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 2-4 (“The feverish . . . economics”)
- B) Lines 6-9 (“Under the . . . machine”)
- C) Lines 9-14 (“Long-standing . . . destruction”)
- D) Lines 14-16 (“In many . . . shaken”)

4. What function does the second paragraph (lines 24-52) serve within the passage as a whole?

- A) It challenges an earlier idea in the passage.
- B) It offers a comparison of two incongruous ideas.
- C) It describes a problem to which the author will offer a solution below.
- D) It critiques a claim to bolster an argument.

5. The author’s use of the phrase “vicious circle” (lines 53-54) is primarily meant to suggest

- A) constant fear.
- B) malicious intent.
- C) perpetual aggression.
- D) self-perpetuating deterioration.

6. Which choice best describes the author’s claim in the fourth paragraph (lines 62-83)?

- A) The United States has a responsibility to protect itself before it lends aid to other nations.
- B) The United States can do much to help the world but cooperation from other nations is necessary.
- C) The United States must act on behalf of the world to ensure amity and prosperity for all.
- D) The United States must act to improve its standing and perception in the eyes of the world.

7. Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 67-72 (“It is . . . peace”)
- B) Lines 72-74 (“Our policy . . . chaos”)
- C) Lines 78-80 (“Such assistance . . . develop”)
- D) Lines 81-83 (“Any assistance . . . palliative”)

8. The main idea of the fifth paragraph (lines 84-93) is that

- A) a single aid program may not work for all European nations.
- B) European input is essential to the success of any aid program.
- C) European nations may need U.S. help in designing an aid program.
- D) a U.S. aid program for European nations must be broad and ongoing.

9. As used in line 89, "initiative" most nearly means

- A) ambition.
- B) desire.
- C) opportunity.
- D) impetus.

10. The author's attitude at the end of the passage is best described as one of

- A) anxious concern.
- B) cautious optimism.
- C) sincere sympathy.
- D) reserved amusement.