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**Read the following passage and answer the questions. Try not to use your dictionary.**

“Should People be Required to Vote?”

by Fran Chizeforall (2014)

- ① Death and taxes, according to the English author Daniel Defoe, are the most certain things in life. Death is, alas, inescapable. Taxation, however, seems dependent on our contract with the state. We pay taxes because the state provides services to us. But how far does this contract extend? Do citizens have duties beyond paying taxes as well as rights? For example, can the state oblige its citizens to vote in elections?
- ② Compulsory voting is hardly a new issue. Wealthy adult male citizens of ancient Athens, ( 1 ), were obliged to do so. In 1777, the US state of Georgia briefly had a similar requirement, and Switzerland introduced the system in 1904. The idea was simple: voting was a duty, not a right, and the process of choosing a government needed to involve all those who could vote, to ensure the <sup>(2)</sup>legitimacy of the state.
- ③ Today, compulsory voting ( 3 ) considerable discussion. The number of people choosing to vote in many countries has been declining for 50 years. In others, though occasional elections have seen brief surges of political interest, the overall trend has been to withdraw from politics in general. The results are plain to see: lacking clear popular support, governments have been unable to carry out needed reforms, and political <sup>(4)</sup>gridlock has become common. Indeed, in some countries, the legitimacy of the electoral system itself has been questioned. Since the economic health of many of these countries remains rather fragile, this is a serious matter.
- ④ Is compulsory voting, however, necessarily limited to rich countries? Some evidence suggests that compulsory voting can only follow economic development. Even though voting is actually enforced in only 10 of the 22 nations where it is legally required, all of those 10 countries are relatively rich. At first glance then, punishing a failure to vote with a fine might seem impractical for poor countries. Interestingly, however,