

Reading Questions for September 2

These questions cover a reading by Martin Luther King Jr. called “Letter from Birmingham Jail.” The answers do not have to be turned in. You will probably have to read more than once to get the answers.

*Background:*

As the title indicates, this is a letter written by Martin Luther King Jr. from jail, in response to a recently published statement made by eight white Alabama clergymen against King. In it he talks about the acceptability of lawbreaking.

*Questions:*

1. In the second half of the first paragraph on page 3, starting with “One may well ask: ...”, what are King’s key points? Do you agree with him? Why?
2. In the next paragraph, starting with, “Now, what is the difference ...” and ending with “... human personality is unjust”, what are King’s key points? Do you agree with him? Why?
3. In the next paragraph, i.e. the one starting with “Let us turn to ...”, What are King’s key points? Do you agree with him? Why?
4. In the next paragraph, i.e. the one starting “Let me give another explanation ...” what are King’s key points? Do you agree with him? Why?