***Election, Monitored  
The tragic farce of voting in Iran***

1. Why were journalists placed ‘in a small box’ at the time of this reporting?
2. Describe the scene at the campaign event where Hamid Rasai was a panelist.
3. What is the Supreme Leader’s argument for why Iranians should vote in the parliamentary elections?
4. Interpret the assertion that, “Under the *nezam*, with its autocratic and democratic elements in perpetual tension, Iranians were neither subjects nor citizens, and they reacted with appropriate confusion.’’
5. What does Secor describe as the “fabular quality’’ to Iranian politics?
6. Who is Ali Akbar Javanfekr and what does Secor discover from her discussion(s) with him?
7. Why might Secor deem Ali Motahari such a fascinating political figure?
8. “Members of parliament are representatives of the people, not of the government or velayat-e faqih.’’ Given what you know of Iranian politics, grapple with Motahari’s assertion.
9. What does Secor seem to take away from her interaction with Amir?
10. At a mosque in Narmak, a bystander told Secor to, “Have confidence in your eyes.” What do reckon he was suggesting to her?
11. On the economy:
    1. Describe the state of the Iranian economy?
    2. To what extent are international sanctions responsible for the dire economic conditions in Iran?
    3. What is the Catch-22 the Iranian government finds itself in with regard to the economy?
12. What does Secor seem to take away from her interaction with *Alef* editor, Seyyed Amir Sayyah?
13. After having read the article, identify Secor's thesis.
14. What does Secor's piece suggest about the legitimacy (or lack thereof) of the Iranian government?
15. What substantial questions does this article raise about Iranian politics and political culture?