

Questions for “Republican Campaign Song”

1. The song makes several allusions to the Civil War. What image did the song hope to evoke by referencing the “boys in blue” who “fought and died”? Why might these overt references attract supporters to the Republican Party?

The song is invoking Union soldiers. The song is playing on patriotic sentiments to bring people together in a cause, as they did during the war.

2. Who is the “common foe” referred to in the third stanza?

The common foe is anyone who would fight against freedom and equality.

3. The sixth stanza references an “infamous alliance” described as the “*Curse of Church and State*.” What do you think this means and why might it encourage some people to vote Republican?

The stanza refers to freedom of religion guaranteed in the Bill of Rights and the separation of religion from government power.

Student must state a claim and support it with evidence from the text. Answers should point toward the ongoing discussions during this period of the role of religion “in the public square” and debate about what separation of church and state meant.

4. Each stanza ends with “Our country must be free,” thus aligning Republican supporters with popular notions of liberty and freedom. What is the song implying will happen if Republicans do not win the election?

Student must state a claim and support it with evidence from the text. Answers should address why Republicans are saying freedom will be curtailed with a Democratic victory.

**ELECTION OF 1876
ANSWER KEY**

Questions for Excerpt from Speech at the Republican National Convention

1. For Frederick Douglass, why were freedom and emancipation incomplete?

Freedom and emancipation were only the letter of the law and are not being fully enforced or supported. He also worried whether they would truly be maintained.

2. According to Douglass, what was the most important question before the convention?

The most important question before the convention was whether they would truly support the amendments made to the Constitution related to freedom, citizenship, and enfranchisement.

3. What assurance did Douglass and the community he represented need from the candidate nominated by the convention before pledging their support?

They needed assurance that Black men would be protected by any means necessary to enable them to vote.

4. What do you think Douglass meant when he stated, "I have this feeling, that, if we bring forth either of the gentlemen named here, the government of the United States and the moral feeling of the country will surround the black voter as by a wall of fire"?

Student must state a claim and support their answer with evidence from the text.

Questions for Population Data and Election Returns

1. According to the 1870 Federal U.S. Census, which group composed the majority of the population of both East and West Feliciana Parishes?

African Americans made up the majority of both parishes.

2. During Reconstruction, African American men in the South voted overwhelmingly for Republican candidates. Given this fact, what is inconsistent about the results as shown in the Original Democratic Count for East Feliciana Parish?

It is inconsistent that there would be no votes counted for Republican candidates.

3. Refer to Frederick Douglass's speech at the Republican National Convention and his comments about protecting the African American vote. What evidence in these tables might support Douglass's concerns?

The large disparity between African American population numbers and votes for Republican candidates could support Douglass's concerns that not all eligible voters are being allowed to vote, or, if they are, that their votes are not being counted.

4. Write a thesis statement supported by the evidence in these two tables.

Student must state a claim and support their answer with evidence from the text.

Questions for “Compromise—Indeed!”

1. What is the subject of this political cartoon?

This political cartoon illustrates the controversial compromise that led to the selection of Rutherford B. Hayes as president.

2. How does the imagery of the cocked pistol and bullwhip support the message of “Tilden or Blood”?

The pistol and whip are very violent imagery, supporting the idea that blood could be shed if Tilden doesn't receive support.

3. On the upper edge of the paper in the background, this statement appears: “Our Constitutional system is on a magazine of powder, 10,000 fools and some that are not fools, are striking matches all around it.” What do you think this means?

Student must make a claim and support their answer with evidence from the cartoon. Answers should point toward the idea that the cartoon indicates the political system is fragile and rests in the hands of a fairly small number of people compared to the population of the country.

4. Based on the title, what do you think the artist, Thomas Nast, thought about the proposed plan to determine the election's outcome? Explain.

Student must make a claim and support their answer with evidence from the cartoon. Answers should indicate Nast's skepticism about the fairness of the system put in place to decide the election.

Questions for Inaugural Address

1. What did Hayes mean by “the hearty and generous acceptance of the legitimate results of that revolution”?

Hayes is referring to the promises made at the end of the Civil War related to freedom and equality for all races.

2. Hayes argued that “self-government” by the southern states would be the best way forward. What are the requirements of that self-government?

They must guard “the interests of both races carefully and equally” and obey the “whole Constitution as it is.” With this phrase, Hayes references the Reconstruction amendments that guarantee freedom and citizenship to African Americans.

3. Hayes asked for “cordial cooperation” from the southern states, requesting that they put aside racial prejudice and political party affiliation. What problems might arise from his relatively hands-off approach?

Student must make a claim and support it with evidence. Student answers may point to what they think will happen when the military is removed from the South or to what economic or political circumstances may result from individual state control.

4. The election of 1876 was ultimately decided by a tribunal. Hayes acknowledged that there might be differing opinions about the tribunal results but claimed there was “entire unanimity” on one point. What was that point?

Hayes said that all agree that disagreement over conflicting claims to the presidency must be peacefully decided and, once decided, the nation should move forward.