

Questions for Excerpt from “New Nationalism”

1. According to Roosevelt, what did New Nationalism require of each branch of government?

Executive: that it be a steward of public welfare

Judiciary: that it be more interested in human welfare than in property

Legislative: that it represent all people, not just one class or section of people

2. Roosevelt acknowledged that he (and reformers) must balance which two competing interests when considering how to reform the role of the federal government?

Reformers must balance human welfare with the needs of the economy.

3. What reasons did Roosevelt give for supporting the direct primary?

Roosevelt supported the direct primary because he said it would stop money from dominating politics, make politicians more “quickly and sensitively responsive” to the people, and allow for more direct action by people in their own affairs.

4. Roosevelt called for a system in which “all moneys received or expended for campaign purposes should be publicly accounted for” before and after an election. How does this align with other progressive values?

Progressivism desired a new relationship between the people and the government characterized by greater accountability and expanded democracy, both of which align with Roosevelt’s desire for transparency with regard to campaign monies.

Questions for Excerpt from the Republican Party Platform

1. According to the Republican Party platform, what should not be interfered with or destroyed?

The rights of individuals to develop their own resources and control their own property should not be interfered with or destroyed.

2. Why did the national and state constitutions put “definite limitations upon themselves and upon their governmental officers and agencies”? According to the platform, which branch of government could best enforce these limitations?

Limitations were placed to protect liberties because “the social and political structure of the United States rests upon the civil liberty of the individual.”

The judicial branch can best enforce these limitations.

3. The Republican Party platform asserted that if people are dissatisfied with the constitutional provisions that underlie the government, they have an established procedure to address that dissatisfaction. What should they do?

They should amend the Constitution.

4. In the choice between individual liberty and governmental authority which did the Republicans believe would best solve the problems of society? What evidence might Republicans have used to support that conclusion?

Governmental authority.

Student must make a claim and support it with evidence. Answers should point to details about the authority of the courts and the party’s belief in citizens agreeing to imposed limits on individual liberty for the good of society.

**ELECTION OF 1912
ANSWER KEY**

Questions for Excerpt from “Speech of Acceptance”

1. What did Eugene V. Debs identify as his chief concern as a presidential candidate?

He wanted to serve the party well and the cause and class of people that it represented.

2. According to Debs, how was the Socialist Party different from other political parties?

“It came in the process of evolution and grows with the growth of the forces which created it. Its spirit is militant and its aim revolutionary. It expresses in political terms the aspiration of the working class to freedom and to a larger and fuller life than they have yet known.”

3. Debs described capitalism as “this monstrous system” and contended that it was “rushing blindly to its impending doom.” What evidence did Debs cite that led him to this conclusion?

Debs listed a number of negative impacts of capitalism, including poverty, high prices, unemployment, child slavery, widespread misery; prostitution, insanity, suicide, and crime.

4. According to Debs, what was the mission of the Socialist Party, and what changes would accomplishing that mission bring to the United States? Why might some Americans have been attracted to this vision?

The Socialist Party’s mission was to destroy capitalistic despotism and establish industrial and social democracy. The United States would see freedom from wage slavery, equality for all, social self-rule, and “a happier day for all humanity.”

Student must make a claim and support it with evidence.

Questions for “The Elephant”

1. What political parties and candidates are represented in this cartoon?

Taft (Republican) and Roosevelt (Bull Moose/Progressive)

2. In your own words, explain what the elephant is saying about the results of the election.

The elephant is blaming the split of the Progressives from the Republican Party for destroying the party and losing the presidential election.

3. Why might Roosevelt have been willing to “rip” the party apart rather than concede the nomination to Taft?

Student must make a claim and support it with evidence.

4. The winning political party is not pictured in this cartoon. What is the cartoon implying about how and why the Democrats won the election?

The cartoon is implying that the Democrats only won because of the damage that the Progressives and Republicans did to each other during the election.

Questions for Excerpt from “The New Freedom”

1. Wilson asserted that all questions discussed in the political platforms of 1912 were based on one basic fact. What was it?

Wilson asserts that the country was not the same as it was twenty years earlier.

2. According to Wilson, what conditions changed the organization of American life? Given the changes in American society, what did Wilson find in need of repair?

Economic conditions, and therefore the organization of people’s lives, changed. The “old political formulas” needed to change.

3. Although Wilson believed that government in the United States had been designed for the people, he found it now controlled by what groups?

It was now controlled by special interest groups.

4. Would you describe the tone of Wilson’s speech as optimistic or pessimistic? Explain.

Student must make a claim and support it with evidence from the text.