

**ELECTION OF 1932  
ANSWER KEY**

**Questions for Excerpt from “Principles and Ideals of the United States Government”**

1. This address is sometimes referred to as Herbert Hoover’s “Rugged Individualism” speech. What does this alternative title imply about Hoover’s views on the government’s role in addressing the economic problems of the Great Depression?

**Hoover believed that the solution to the Great Depression rested with individuals rather than with the government.**

2. According to Hoover, what were the dangers of government intervention in the economy?

**Hoover said that the very basis of liberty and freedom were at stake.**

3. Hoover asserted that the federal government’s attempts to control business have effects on state and municipal governments and also on “the average man.” Describe these effects.

**State/municipal governments: Deprived of control and subject to unfair taxation**

**Average man: Loss of autonomy, particularly if left “outside the fold”**

4. What did Hoover claim would be the ultimate outcome if his opponent increased the role of the government in the economy? Explain.

**The ultimate outcome was despotism and the destruction of self-government.**

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**Questions for “Breadline on Sixth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY”**

1. Examine the photograph very carefully. How would you describe the people standing in line?

**Student must demonstrate visual analysis skills and point out details found in the photograph.**

2. Looking at the people in the photograph, who is missing or is not represented by those standing in line? Why might this be?

**Women and children do not seem to appear in the line.**

**Student should make a claim and support their answer with evidence. Answers could point to the breadline feeding unemployed workers, a majority of whom were men.**

3. Who provided assistance to those in line, and what was being asked from others?

**A restaurant, a private business, was providing the assistance. The restaurant owner asked for donations of money from others.**

4. Which presidential candidate most likely supported using private (non-governmental) funds to provide meals? Explain your answer.

**Hoover.**

**Student should make a claim and support their answer with evidence.**

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**Questions for Excerpt from “Commonwealth Club Address”**

1. What do you think was the purpose of Roosevelt’s speech?

**Student must state a claim and support it with evidence from the text. Answers should relate to expressing his beliefs about the role of government.**

2. When Roosevelt spoke of the “public trust” and the “social contract” in the first paragraph, he implied that those with private economic power also have a duty to do what?

**Those with private economic power have a duty to do what is best for the people.**

3. According to Roosevelt, what is the government’s role in protecting the public welfare?

**The government owes people enough support so that everyone has “an avenue to possess himself of a portion of that plenty sufficient for his needs, through his own work.”**

4. If private business failed to act in the public interest, according to Roosevelt, what was the government’s final option? Do you agree or disagree with his point of view? Explain.

**The government had the right to fully regulate business if it failed to act in the public interest.**

**Student must state a claim and support it with evidence.**

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**Questions for “Old Doc G.O.P. Talking”**

1. Whose point of view is represented by this cartoon’s message?

**This cartoon represents the Democratic Party’s point of view.**

2. According to the cartoon, what message has the G.O.P. (Grand Old Party), otherwise known as the Republican Party, been telling the American people? How did the G.O.P.’s message change from 1928 to 1932?

**The G.O.P. has been telling the American people that the Depression is only temporary and prosperity will soon return. Their message evolved from denying a problem to downplaying it to saying G.O.P. policies were the solution.**

3. The poem at the bottom of the cartoon refers to “Doc G.O.P.” as a wizard who sells a “magic remedy.” Why do you think the Republican Party’s solution to the Great Depression might be characterized that way?

**Student must state a claim and support it with evidence.**

4. According to the cartoon, what is the G.O.P. unable to see yet claims to be able to cure?

**The G.O.P. could not see the Depression as a real problem, but claimed their policies were the cure.**

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**Questions for Excerpt from First Inaugural Address**

1. This speech contains the well-known quotation “the only thing we have to fear is fear itself.” What does this mean in context of Roosevelt’s address?

**Roosevelt urged Americans to not become so afraid that they would be overcome by indecision. Decisive action was required.**

2. Name at least three specific actions Roosevelt recommended for the nation.

**Student should list from the actions proposed in the second, third, or fourth paragraph of this excerpt.**

3. Roosevelt spoke about the importance of discipline as the nation moved forward. Why did he say discipline is important?

**No progress can be made without discipline, and no leader can be effective without discipline. Roosevelt projected confidence and self-discipline in large part to restore confidence in the economy.**

4. What was the tone of Roosevelt’s address? How did it compare to what Hoover had been saying about the Depression?

**Roosevelt’s address was hopeful and inspirational. He acknowledged the position of the country, but provided specific actions that he said the nation should take. This was in contrast with Hoover’s previous policies, which largely looked to individuals to support themselves and each other without government intervention.**