**Lincoln Source Analysis**

**Lincoln & His Cabinet**

*Interview with Doris Kearns Goodman on NPR*

1) Compare Lincoln’s upbringing with his cabinet members. Why is this significant and how might this have influenced Lincoln’s leadership style?
2) Explain the term “team of rivals.” Why did Lincoln appoint “his rivals” to his cabinet? Provide examples detailing why this was a good leadership decision.
3) Explain why Lincoln’s appointment of Chase, as Supreme Court Justice, might exemplify Lincoln’s greatness.

*New York Times, Team of Rivals book review*

4) How did Lincoln deal with recalcitrant subordinates?
5) Describe the characteristics that Lincoln possessed which enabled him keep his cabinet members focused on their common goals.
6) Describe why Stanton was “won over” by Lincoln.
7) At the core of Kearns’ thesis is that Lincoln was a great president and an American “hero” because of his leadership style. Describe the extent to which you agree with this.

**Lincoln & Slavery**

*Tracing President Lincoln's Thoughts on Slavery, Eric Foner interview on NPR*

1) According to Lincoln the phrase, “all men are created equal,” applies to everyone including Black Americans. Nonetheless, what does Lincoln mean by equality as it pertains to blacks?

2) Analyze this quote from the Lincoln Douglas debates in 1858: "My first impulse would be to free all the slaves, and send them to Liberia,—to their own native land. But a moment’s reflection would convince me that whatever of high hope (as I think there is) there may be in this, in the long run, its sudden execution is impossible." What does this suggest about Lincoln’s position(s) on race and slavery?

3) List and explain the circumstances that led Lincoln to reverse his views on colonization and gradual emancipation.

4) Summarize the characteristics that Eric Foner discusses regarding Lincoln’s “elements of greatness.”

5) From what you have learned from Foner, in what ways should Lincoln be exalted as a great president and an American “hero”?

**Lincoln as Orator**

*Ted Sorensen on Abraham Lincoln: A Man of His Words*

1) Summarize the characteristics that made Lincoln’s speeches, “powerful for all time and carried around the world.”

2) Provide examples of Lincoln’s model usage of rhetorical devices.

*Ronald White interview on NPR about Lincoln’s 2nd Inaugural Speech*

3) According to Lincoln who is responsible for slavery? How is this statement so significant?

4) Explain Lincoln’s suggestions for reconciliation with the South.

5) Compare what the audience was expecting to hear to what they heard instead.

6) What personal qualities must Lincoln possess in order have this attitude towards southerners?

7) One of the tests of greatness in leadership is one’s ability to have clear positions and to be able to communicate those positions in a persuasive, comprehensible, and memorable way. To what extent did Lincoln exhibit greatness as an orator?

**Lincoln as Commander in Chief**

*Book Review: James M. McPherson, Tried by War: Abraham Lincoln as Commander in Chief*

1. Describe how Lincoln developed in his role as Commander in Chief.
2. Historians seem to go out of the way to demonstrate Lincoln’s hard-earned military genius. But the great Commanders in Chief are obeyed by their superiors. Offer evidence of how Lincoln was ignored by his officers. Then show the twist that historians put on this.
3. If the central point of strategy is to ensure that, “the main thing remains the main thing,” what was the “main thing” for Lincoln? How did his role as Commander in Chief reflect this priority?
4. What did Lincoln do as Commander in Chief that was so audacious?
5. What was Lincoln’s central dispute with McClellan?
6. Describe Lincoln’s management style.
7. List the characteristics explained in the article which argue Lincoln a great wartime president and a war hero. Do you take issue with any to these? Is this just a slam dunk case? What might be other side(s) of the argument?

*Lincoln’s letter to McClellan*

1. How does this letter exemplify Lincoln’s approach to military leadership. What parts of MacPherson’s argument are illustrated in this letter?

**Lincoln & Congress**

*Earnest Men: Republicans of the Civil War Senate*

1. What does Massachusetts Congressman John B. Alley have to say about Congressional perceptions of Lincoln?
2. How did Lincoln’s training as a lawyer prepare him fro the Presidency?
3. Summarize the analysis of Lincoln offered by Massachusetts Congressman Henry L Dawes.
4. What specific strategies do Lincoln employ to deal with Congress?
5. Assess Lincoln’s role in forging comprise between Conservative and Radical Congressmen.
6. Respond to the idea that if Lincoln’s relations with Congress were good, this is largely because a) “that Lincoln’s most decisive assertions of presidential power usually occurred when Congress was not in session”, b) the Southern Congressmen had seceded, leaving a Republican supermajority, and c) Lincoln could exercise. War Powers as Commander in Chief during the Civil War.
7. What is the central assertion of political scientist Jon Schaff?