

Final questions 2



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Response The U. S. President is not only the head of the executive arm of the government but also the Head of and Head of Government. Thus the presidency is the highest political office in the U. S. by influence and recognition. Given the influence of the office, the president indeed, is capable of shaping the time in which he was in office. This was the case with Presidents Abraham Lincoln and Franklin D. Roosevelt (Griffin and Hines, 2008). Again, given that the presidency is the number one position in the nation, the president is the first person to be apportioned praise if there is prosperity and relative peace. Thus Presidents Bill Clinton and Dwight D. Eisenhower have enjoyed wide popularity and acclaimed great by virtue of the prosperous times they served the nation (Griffin and Hines, 2008).

President Abraham Lincoln, in my humble opinion, is undoubtedly the best American president. He stood firm in ensuring the victory of the Federal Government over the seceding Southern States during the American civil war. The victory, indeed, changed the America history as it not only led to consolidation of the union, but also led to the emancipation of African-Americans from the bonds of slavery. Furthermore, Abraham Lincoln beliefs and actions are foundations of many American's ideas. For instance, his definition of democracy as the government of the people, by the people and for the people has become the universally accepted definition of democracy. Franklin D. Roosevelt had enormous impact on American history. He fought and won two of the greatest threat to the America - the Great Depression and the World War II. His aggressive and well implemented New Deal Program changed American history while his focused and committed leadership led to the defect of the Allies forces during the Second World War. While some presidents become great by influencing the time they served,

others become great by virtue of the time they serve. Presidents Bill Clinton and Dwight D. Eisenhower are classic examples. The economic prosperity enjoyed by the U. S. during Clinton's time in office was the major source of his popularity. His proposed national health care system failed and the Monica Lewinsky scandal led to his impeachment even though he was not removed from office. Dwight D. Eisenhower, another acclaimed great American president served the nation in the 1950s, a time of great prosperity and relative peace. For a nation that has emerged from the Second World War, enjoying peace and prosperity was more of a blessing. Thus President Dwight D. Eisenhower was acclaimed a great leader even though he may not be responsible for the prosperity. Given the examples of the four great presidents, I strongly concur with both sides of the debate that presidents shape the times they were in office and that some presidents become great by virtue of the times they served. Reference Griffin, J. and Hine, N. (2008). Who's the greatest? The Times U. S. presidential rankings. The Sunday Times. October 28, 2008