

CHAPTER  
**13**  
SECTION 4

READING COMPREHENSION

**Presidential Nominations**

**3**

1. Is the nomination process set by the Constitution, federal law, State law, or some other way? Explain.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How is the number of delegates from each State to a party's national convention determined?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. How are the procedures for picking delegates different in the Republican and Democratic Parties?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is a presidential primary?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. What is "front-loading," and what effect has it had on primary campaigns?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Explain the difference between winner-take-all and proportional representation in the primary process.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. What impact has the proportional representation rule had on the shape of presidential primaries?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. How are primaries different for the party in power and the party out of power?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. Explain two proposals to reform the primary process.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**READING COMPREHENSION (continued)**

**Presidential Nominations**

**3**

10. Why would reform be difficult?

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11. In those States that do not hold presidential primaries, how are delegates to the national convention chosen?

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12. Briefly describe how the caucus process works.

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\_\_\_\_\_

13. What are the first two delegate-selection events in the country?

\_\_\_\_\_

14. What nominating event takes place after all of the primaries and caucuses?

\_\_\_\_\_

15. What are the three major goals of this event?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

16. What are some other objectives parties hope their conventions will accomplish?

\_\_\_\_\_

17. Briefly describe what happens during a party's convention.

- a. Day 1: \_\_\_\_\_
- b. Day 2: \_\_\_\_\_
- c. Day 3: \_\_\_\_\_
- d. Day 4: \_\_\_\_\_

18. What are some of the common characteristics of presidential candidates?

\_\_\_\_\_

19. Name four reasons why the 2008 presidential race was historic.

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_
- d. \_\_\_\_\_

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READING COMPREHENSION

**Presidential Nominations**

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1. What is the purpose of the national convention system?

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2. Why are the presidential primaries so important?

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3. Are primaries exactly the same in each state? Explain.

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4. Describe the proportional representation rule.

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5. How can a presidential primary help ensure that a party gets strong candidates for President?

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6. Describe two ideas that have been proposed for reforming the presidential primary process.

a. \_\_\_\_\_

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b. \_\_\_\_\_

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**READING COMPREHENSION (continued)**

**Presidential Nominations**

**2**

7. What stops political parties from reforming the presidential primary process?

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8. What is a caucus? Explain its purpose.

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9. What are the three main goals of a national convention?

- a. \_\_\_\_\_
- b. \_\_\_\_\_
- c. \_\_\_\_\_

10. Explain why the keynote address and presidential candidate's acceptance speech are important to a national convention.

- a. keynote address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
- b. acceptance speech: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

11. Describe the type of person who is likely to be nominated for President.

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## CORE WORKSHEET A

## Presidential Nominations

3

Conduct research on the delegate selection process of the State your teacher has assigned. Use the information you gather to answer the following questions. Then your teacher will put you into a new group to complete the chart below.

Researched State: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Which type of delegate selection system does this State have, caucus or a primary?

\_\_\_\_\_

2. When in the election schedule does this State's caucus or primary occur?

\_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

3. Who can vote in this election?

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Which candidates can they vote for?

\_\_\_\_\_

5. Is it a winner-take-all or proportional method of selection?

\_\_\_\_\_

Category	State #1 _____	State #2 _____	State #3 _____	State #4 _____
Caucus or primary				
Date of election				
Voters				
Candidates				
Winner-take-all or proportional				

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CORE WORKSHEET B

**Presidential Nominations**

3

Read the 2008 acceptance speech of the Democratic presidential nominee, Barack Obama, or the Republican presidential nominee, John McCain, as assigned to you by your teacher. Then answer the questions below.

1. How does this speech reflect the national convention's goal of inspiring unity within the party? Include examples.

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2. How does this speech generate support for one party over the other?

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3. Do you think this speech would have captured the country's interest? Why or why not?

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4. List five policies that the nominee states as priorities for his administration.

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5. Are these policies most important to you? Why or why not?

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6. After hearing this speech, would you be inspired to vote for this nominee? Why or why not?

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## CHAPTER

## 13

## SECTION 4

## PRIMARY SOURCE A

## Presidential Nominations

3

**Barack Obama's Nomination Acceptance Speech  
Democratic National Convention, August 28, 2008**

Four years ago, I stood before you and told you my story—of the brief union between a young man from Kenya and a young woman from Kansas who weren't well-off or well-known, but shared a belief that in America, their son could achieve whatever he put his mind to.

It is that promise that has always set this country apart—that through hard work and sacrifice, each of us can pursue our individual dreams but still come together as one American family, to ensure that the next generation can pursue their dreams as well.

That's why I stand here tonight. Because for two hundred and thirty two years, at each moment when that promise was in jeopardy, ordinary men and women . . . found the courage to keep it alive.

We meet at one of those defining moments—a moment when our nation is at war, our economy is in turmoil, and the American promise has been threatened once more.

Tonight, more Americans are out of work and more are working harder for less. More of you have lost your homes and even more are watching your home values plummet. More of you have cars you can't afford to drive, credit card bills you can't afford to pay, and tuition that's beyond your reach.

These challenges are not all of government's making. But the failure to respond is a direct result of broken politics in Washington and the failed policies of George W. Bush. . . .

Tonight, I say to the American people, to Democrats and Republicans and Independents across this great land—enough! This moment—this election—is our chance to keep, in the 21st century, the American promise alive. Because next week, in Minnesota, the same party that brought you two terms of George Bush and Dick Cheney will ask this country for a third. And we are here because we love this country too much to let the next four years look like the last eight. On November 4th, we must stand up and say: "Eight is enough." . . .

You see, we Democrats . . . measure progress by how many people can find a job that pays the mortgage; whether you can put a little extra money away at the end of each month so you can someday watch your child receive her college diploma. We measure progress in the 23 million new jobs that were created when Bill Clinton was President—when the average American family saw its income go up \$7,500 instead of down \$2,000 like it has under George Bush. . . .

The fundamentals we use to measure economic strength are whether we are living up to that fundamental promise that has made this country great . . .

What is that promise?

It's a promise that says each of us has the freedom to make of our own lives what we will, but that we also have the obligation to treat each other with dignity and respect.

**PRIMARY SOURCE A (continued)****Presidential Nominations****3**

It's a promise that says the market should reward drive and innovation and generate growth, but that businesses should live up to their responsibilities to create American jobs, look out for American workers, and play by the rules of the road.

Ours is a promise that says government cannot solve all our problems, but what it should do is that which we cannot do for ourselves—protect us from harm and provide every child a decent education; keep our water clean and our toys safe; invest in new schools and new roads and new science and technology.

Our government should work for us, not against us. . . . It should ensure opportunity not just for those with the most money and influence, but for every American who's willing to work. . . .

That's the promise we need to keep. That's the change we need right now. So let me spell out exactly what that change would mean if I am President.

Change means a tax code that doesn't reward the lobbyists who wrote it, but the American workers and small businesses who deserve it.

Unlike John McCain, I will stop giving tax breaks to corporations that ship jobs overseas, and I will start giving them to companies that create good jobs right here in America.

I will eliminate capital gains taxes for the small businesses and the start-ups that will create the high-wage, high-tech jobs of tomorrow.

I will cut taxes—cut taxes—for 95% of all working families. Because in an economy like this, the last thing we should do is raise taxes on the middle-class. . . .

As President, I will tap our natural gas reserves, invest in clean coal technology, and find ways to safely harness nuclear power. . . . And I'll invest 150 billion dollars over the next decade in affordable, renewable sources of energy . . . an investment that will lead to new industries and five million new jobs that pay well and can't ever be outsourced.

America, now is not the time for small plans.

Now is the time to finally meet our moral obligation to provide every child a world-class education, because it will take nothing less to compete in the global economy. . . .

Now is the time to finally keep the promise of affordable, accessible health care for every single American. . . .

Now is the time to change our bankruptcy laws, so that your pensions are protected ahead of CEO bonuses; and the time to protect Social Security for future generations. . . .

And just as we keep our promise to the next generation here at home, so must we keep America's promise abroad. . . .

The Bush-McCain foreign policy has squandered the legacy that generations of Americans—Democrats and Republicans—have built, and we are here to restore that legacy. . . .

You have shown what history teaches us—that at defining moments like this one, the change we need doesn't come from Washington. Change comes to Washington. Change happens because the American people demand it—because they rise up and insist on new ideas and new leadership, a new politics for a new time.

America, this is one of those moments.



## CHAPTER

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## SECTION 4

## PRIMARY SOURCE B

## Presidential Nominations

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**John McCain's Nomination Acceptance Speech  
Republican National Convention, September 4, 2008**

In my life, no success has come without a good fight, and this nomination wasn't any different. . . .

But let there be no doubt, my friends, we're going to win this election. And after we've won, we're going to reach out our hand to any willing patriot, make this government start working for you again, and get this country back on the road to prosperity and peace.

These are tough times for many of you. You're worried about keeping your job or finding a new one, and are struggling to put food on the table and stay in your home. All you ever asked of government is to stand on your side, not in your way. And that's just what I intend to do: stand on your side and fight for your future. . . .

You know, I've been called a maverick; someone who marches to the beat of his own drum. Sometimes it's meant as a compliment and sometimes it's not. What it really means is I understand who I work for. I don't work for a party. I don't work for a special interest. I don't work for myself. I work for you.

I've fought corruption, and it didn't matter if the culprits were Democrats or Republicans. . . . I've fought big spenders in both parties, who waste your money on things you neither need nor want, while you struggle to buy groceries, fill your gas tank and make your mortgage payment. . . .

I fought for the right strategy and more troops in Iraq, when it wasn't a popular thing to do. And when the pundits said my campaign was finished, I said I'd rather lose an election than see my country lose a war. . . .

I don't mind a good fight. For reasons known only to God, I've had quite a few tough ones in my life. But I learned an important lesson along the way. In the end, it matters less that you can fight. What you fight for is the real test.

I fight for Americans. I fight for you. . . .

I fight to restore the pride and principles of our party. We were elected to change Washington, and we let Washington change us. We lost the trust of the American people. . . .

We're going to change that. We're going to recover the people's trust by standing up again for the values Americans admire. The party of Lincoln, [Theodore] Roosevelt and Reagan is going to get back to basics.

We believe everyone has something to contribute and deserves the opportunity to reach their God-given potential from the boy whose descendants arrived on the *Mayflower* to the Latina daughter of migrant workers. We're all God's children and we're all Americans.

We believe in low taxes; spending discipline, and open markets. We believe in rewarding hard work and risk takers and letting people keep the fruits of their labor.

We believe in a strong defense, work, faith, service, a culture of life, personal responsibility, the rule of law, and judges who dispense justice impartially and don't legislate from the bench. We believe in the values of families, neighborhoods and communities.

**PRIMARY SOURCE B (continued)****Presidential Nominations****3**

We believe in a government that unleashes the creativity and initiative of Americans. Government that doesn't make your choices for you, but works to make sure you have more choices to make for yourself.

I will keep taxes low and cut them where I can. My opponent will raise them. I will open new markets to our goods and services. My opponent will close them. I will cut government spending. He will increase it.

My tax cuts will create jobs. His tax increases will eliminate them. My health care plan will make it easier for more Americans to find and keep good health care insurance. His plan will force small businesses to cut jobs, reduce wages, and force families into a government run health care system where a bureaucrat stands between you and your doctor.

Keeping taxes low helps small businesses grow and create new jobs. Cutting the second highest business tax rate in the world will help American companies compete and keep jobs from moving overseas. . . . Opening new markets and preparing workers to compete in the world economy is essential to our future prosperity.

I know some of you have been left behind in the changing economy and it often seems your government hasn't even noticed. . . . My opponent promises to bring back old jobs by wishing away the global economy. We're going to help workers who've lost a job that won't come back, find a new one that won't go away. . . .

Education is the civil rights issue of this century. Equal access to public education has been gained. But what is the value of access to a failing school? . . .

Senator Obama wants our schools to answer to unions and entrenched bureaucracies. I want schools to answer to parents and students. And when I'm President, they will.

My fellow Americans, when I'm President, we're going to embark on the most ambitious national project in decades. We are going to stop sending \$700 billion a year to countries that don't like us very much. We will attack the problem on every front. We will produce more energy at home. We will drill new wells offshore, and we'll drill them now. We will build more nuclear power plants. . . . We will encourage the development and use of flex fuel, hybrid and electric automobiles. . . .

Today, the prospect of a better world remains within our reach. But we must see the threats to peace and liberty in our time clearly and face them, as Americans before us did, with confidence, wisdom and resolve. . . .

We face many threats in this dangerous world, but I'm not afraid of them. I'm prepared for them. . . . I know how to work with leaders who share our dreams of a freer, safer and more prosperous world, and how to stand up to those who don't. I know how to secure the peace. . . .

I'm going to fight to make sure every American has every reason to thank God, as I thank Him: that I'm an American, a proud citizen of the greatest country on earth, and with hard work, strong faith and a little courage, great things are always within our reach. Fight with me. Fight with me. . . .

Nothing is inevitable here. We're Americans, and we never give up. We never quit. We never hide from history. We make history.