**Text-Dependent Questions for “Mass Incarceration as a Form of Racialized Social Control”**

***Directions: Answer 5 of the 10 following questions. Use complete sentence and cite evidence from the article to support your ideas.***

1. How did conservatives depict civil rights activists and the federal courts that ruled in their favor during the 1950s and 1960s? Why?
2. What two causes does Alexander suggest for the rising crime rates in the 1960s? Why do you think these factors were generally ignored?
3. What conclusion did conservatives attempt to draw from the riots and uprisings of the 1960s? What explanation did civil rights activists give instead? Follow both arguments to their conclusion in terms of what ought to be done in response to the uprisings. What are the implications for racial hierarchy?
4. How does Alexander characterize the motivation behind some blacks’ support for a “law and order” approach to fighting crime? What did the conservatives gain from their support? What did the black communities gain?
5. How does Alexander describe the racial politics that followed the civil rights movement? How did the Republican Party seize white resistance to desegregation?
6. Alexander writes, “a disproportionate share of the costs of integration and racial equality had been borne by lower- and lower-middle-class whites, who were suddenly forced to compete on equal terms with blacks for jobs and status and who lived in neighborhoods adjoining black ghettos.” How did the conservative “law and order” rhetoric provide a new racial bribe to lower- and lower-middle-class whites? How did this wedge impact the Democratic Party?
7. Alexander points to Reagan’s presidency as the full development of the Republican revolution and what she later refers to as the “Age of Colorblindness.” According to her analysis, how did racial discourse adapt to the needs and demands of this period?
8. At the time the War on Drugs was launched, less than 2 percent of the American public viewed drugs as the most important issue facing the nation. What steps did the Reagan administration take to justify and garner support for the “war”?
9. What main factors contributed to the destabilization of inner-cites in the 1980s? Where did the War on Drugs fit into this reality?
10. Why do you think Alexander finds it so significant to note the beginning of the War on Drugs preceded the start of the crack epidemic?

**Connector Questions**

***Directions: Select 2 of the 4 questions below. Write a complete paragraph and cite evidence from the article to support your ideas.***

1. How does Alexander compare conservative and liberal views on poverty? Do either of these opinions reflect your own? What about your family? Explain.
2. How do you think the War on Drugs has affected your generation? Do you think your response is influenced by your race and your family’s socioeconomic class? Explain.
3. Do you hear and see stereotypes today similar to the ones mentioned in this excerpt, such as “welfare queens,” “crack babies” and “gangbangers”? If so, where do they appear? What are some present-day ways of sending racialized messages and stereotypes about people of color without using explicitly racial language?
4. This excerpt ends with Alexander writing that the New Jim Crow had been born. Based on what you have read so far, why do you think she’s naming the phenomenon of mass incarceration this way?