**Power and the Presidency, From Kennedy to Obama**Robert Dallek (Smithsonian Magazine, January 2011)

Article Questions

*Directions: Using specific examples from the article, our discussions from class and your knowledge of current events, answer the following questions on additional paper and in complete sentences. Your responses for each question should not only be in complete sentences but also offer a thorough analysis and understanding of the material presented.*

1. What was Kennedy’s “rallying cry”?
2. How had each of the following presidents expanded control over foreign policy?
   1. Teddy Roosevelt
   2. Woodrow Wilson
   3. Franklin Roosevelt
   4. Harry Truman
   5. Dwight Eisenhower
3. Why had the president become “the undisputed architect of US foreign policy”?
4. What was the paradoxical corollary that Truman learned? How did Eisenhower use that information to his advantage?
5. How did Kennedy differ from Truman? What did he use to build a consensus?
6. Explain what happened in the Bay of Pigs incident. How did Kennedy respond? What was the reaction from the public?
7. Explain what happened during the Cuban Missile Crisis (October 1962). How did Kennedy respond? What was the reaction from the public?
8. What foreign policy decisions did Kennedy and Johnson make with regards to Vietnam? (Note: there are two different answers here).
9. “The unpopular war and Johnson’s political demise signaled a turn against executive dominance of foreign policy.” Explain.
10. What were two of Nixon’s most foreign policy achievements? Why?
11. Why were the situations in Vietnam and Cambodia seen as foreign policy failures for Richard Nixon?
12. Summarize each of the following presidents with regards to their foreign policy initiatives/decisions:
    1. Gerald Ford
    2. Jimmy Carter
    3. Ronald Reagan
    4. George Bush, Sr.
    5. Bill Clinton
13. How did 9/11 change George W. Bush’s approach to foreign policy?
14. What have been President Obama’s greatest foreign policy achievements? His greatest failures?
15. Historian Arthur Schlesinger stated: “Two effective means of controlling the presidency lay less in law than in politics. For the American President is ruled by influence; and the withdrawal of consent, by Congress, by the press, by public opinion could bring any President down.” Explain this quote in your own words and then demonstrate why it is both an accurate and inaccurate assessment.

**IMPORTANT REMINDER:** Your responses should include specific information from the article, our discussions from class, and current events. The answers should reflect a thoughtful analysis and understanding of the material presented. In other words, take time to explain your answers, use specific evidence, and develop your responses – all good practice for the free response questions on your AP Exam!