DOCUMENT 9 (exam session)

Inside the Republican Party's New Direction on Gun Restrictions

I – Vocabulary

1 – charnière, décisif	Watershed (1)	18 – fondé de pouvoir	A proxy (24)
2 – à la suite de	In the wake of (1)	19 – réduire considérablement	(to) slash (25)
3 – financement	Funding (3)	20 – ensemble du personnel	The payroll (25)
4 – réprimander	(to) chide (5)	21 – chute	A slide (26)
5 – renforcer	(to) strengthen (8)	22 – dégringolade	Nosedive (27)
6 – vérification des antécédents	Background checks (8)	23 – interdire	(to) outlaw
7 – soutenir	(to) back (9)	24 – monter en flèche	(to) soar (34)
8 – expert, spécialiste	Pundit (13)	25 – produire en grandes quantités	(to) crank out (35)
9 – les sondages	Polls (14)	26 – viable	Sustainable (37)
10 – au milieu de	In the midst of (16)	27 – une secousse	A jolt (38)
11 – à 2 chiffres	Double-digit (16)	28 – se remettre en selle	(to) bounce back (38)
12 – chute, baisse	Drop (16)	29 – une chute	A slump (39)
13 – au bord de la faillite	The brink of bankruptcy (17)	30 – tenir rigueur	(to) hold against (50)
14 – relancer	(to) goose (18)	31 – avertissement, mise en garde	A caveat (59)
15 – proposer, soumettre	(to) float (20)	32 – Approvisionnement réciproque	Reciprocity provision (61)
16 – représailles	Retribution (20)		
17 – (ici) la méthode	The metric (24)		

II – Context: mentioned mass shootings.

- **Sandy Hook Elementary School**, Newtown, Connecticut, December 14th,2012.
  Perpetrator: Adam Lanza. Casualties: 20 children (6 and 7 years old) + 6 staff members dead.
- **San Bernardino**, California, December 2nd,2015. Terrorist attack. Casualties: 14 dead + 22 injured.
- **Orlando**, Florida, June 12th,2016. Perpetrator: Omar Mateen. Casualties: 49 dead, 53 wounded.
- **Las Vegas Concert**, Nevada, October 17th,2017. Perpetrator: Stephen Paddock (64 years old).
  Casualties: 58 dead, 851 injured.
  → deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history. Paddock fired more than 1,100 rounds from his hotel bedroom on a crowd of concertgoers. He used bump stock, a device to help fire shots in rapid succession (like an automatic weapon).
  Bump stock were banned by the U.S. Justice Department in December 2018, to be effective in March 2019.
- **Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School**, Parkland, Florida, in February 14th, 2018.
  Perpetrator: Nikolas Cruz. Casualties: 14 killed, 17 injured.

III - QUESTIONS

From line 1 to 21
1) What is the Republican party's new direction as far as President Trump is concerned?
   → **While receiving all the governors of the country at the White House after the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, President Trump stated that the governors should not be afraid of the NRA and launch attacks against the gun lobbies so as to meet the current violent situation with guns in America.**

2) What is paradoxical about this statement?
   Donald Trump has received a maximum of funding (a record so far) from the National Rifle association in 2016, the most influential gun lobby in the U.S.A.

3) Right or wrong. Tick the correct answer and justify with a quote from the text.

   President Trump is the only Republican to hold this position.
      Right   **Wrong**   Line: **6-7**
   "The President is hardly the only Republican to change his tune on guns in the wake of the Feb. 14 killing of 17 people in Parkland, Fla."

4) Which measures have been taken?
- **To strengthen background checks rules – John Cornyn (GOP, Texas) along with Democrats.**
- **A will to raise the age limit so that people of 21 (and no more 18) would be allowed to buy some weapons – Marco Rubio (GOP, Florida)**
- **To arm educators – TRUMP**
- **Plans to restrict high-capacity magazines (like those the shooter allegedly used) → see the 1994-2004 ban!!**

5) Why such a reaction from the GOP?
   → **After the many mass shootings, a majority of Americans are getting really fed up with the situation. The GOP has to show their citizens (and voters) they are dealing with the problem.**

6) **Why is MONEY a determining factor in this new political attitude?**
   Gun manufacturers:
   → **meet an unprecedented economic crisis in decades**
   → **cannot fund the NRA as they used to.**
   The NRA, to deal with the situation:
   → **"has allowed" lawmakers to launch new restrictions/limits**
   → **no retribution/retaliation/ "vengeance"**
   Final purpose:
   → **to re-launch the gun makers' production and economical boast as there is nothing better as new gun-control measures to urge the Americans to buy more guns.**

From line 22 to 53
→ Fill in the grid to get a clear comparison between Trump's and Obama's presidencies.

Trump's presidency	*Obama's presidency*
Possible catch phrase: **there is no fear-based buying right now**	*Possible catch phrase:* **fear is good for business**

Gun manufacturers' revenues in 2017 = **-13%**
Background checks = **-8.4%** than 2016, which was already a **record-breaking** year.
Resulted in:
- **Cutback in production**
- **Job losses**
Remington's case:
→ **asked for bankruptcy protection after -30% sales in 2017.**
 	
When Trump was elected, people had all the **WEAPONS** they **NEEDED**; there was no fear their right might be **ENDANGERED**.
 	
Only way to convince the Americans to rush back to gun stores:
- **Change of Administration (new President)**
- **Change of political color of Congress (midterms)**
 	
So, NRA's $ **54 million** funding for the Republicans is qualified as **IRONIC**.
	Right or wrong. Tick the correct answer and justify with a quote from the text.
	
	1. After his election, the Americans rushed to gun stores as they feared many weapons would be prohibited.
	    Right Wrong <u>Line:</u>
	"Under Barack Obama, gun owners rushed to buy firepower they feared was going to be outlawed." (29-30)
	
	2. If Hillary Clinton had been elected President, the gun sales would have soared.
	    Right Wrong <u>Line:</u>
	"Had Hillary Clinton won the White House, gun sales would be soaring to new heights, industry analysts say." (35-36)
	
	3. As a result, gun production in 2016 did not reach any record.
	    Right Wrong <u>Line:</u>
	"Manufacturers cranked out more firearms than ever in 2016." (36)

When the deadliest mass shooting happened, background checks were **-13%** than in **2016**. NRA's reaction: → **propose to regulate bump stock** People's reaction: → **rushed to stores to stockpile them.** Congress achievement: → **no real progress (none!)**	FBI background check figures: - Obama elected in 2008, gun sales = 42%. - After Newton shooting, background checks = +49% than 2011; after San Bernardino, background checks = +44%; after Orlando, background checks = +39%

From line 53 to the end.

1) <u>What would Trump's plan to arm educators involve?</u>
   → **The NRA would make profits as it is the leader as far as safety programs are concerned. The NRA would become the natural and well-paid partner of the state to train the teachers.**

2) <u>What will the congressmen/women's action consist in?</u>
   → **Nothing much more than strengthening background checks again.**

3) <u>Recap the major blow of one of the background check bills for the Democrats.</u>
   → **The individuals with a conceal-carry license would be granted this right at the federal level (against the state level before). So the Democratic states imposing more regulations would have to accept this right and comply.**

4) <u>Why is it an excellent strategy for the GOP?</u>
   - **Just before the midterms = need to make the voters aware that the GOP is listening to them, that the party is not lax but considering.**
   - **Good for gun lobbies, in particular the NRA, and for the GOP's funding as they rely on the former to have money for their campaigns.**