

the candidate movie questions answer key

The candidate movie questions answer key serves as a vital resource for educators, students, and film enthusiasts who wish to delve deeper into the thematic elements, character development, and cinematic techniques of the film "The Candidate." This political drama, released in 1972 and starring Robert Redford, offers rich material for discussion and analysis. In this article, we will explore the critical questions typically raised about the film and provide a comprehensive answer key to facilitate understanding.

Understanding "The Candidate"

Before we dive into the questions and answers, it's essential to provide some context about the film itself. "The Candidate" revolves around the journey of Bill McKay (played by Redford), an idealistic lawyer who becomes an unexpected candidate for the United States Senate. The film explores themes of political ambition, the ethics of campaigning, and the impact of media on politics.

Key Themes

Several significant themes emerge throughout the film:

1. Idealism vs. Realism: The film contrasts McKay's initial idealistic views with the pragmatic realities of political campaigning.
2. The Role of Media: It illustrates how media influences public perception and the political landscape.
3. Corruption and Compromise: McKay's journey represents the moral compromises candidates often make to achieve success.

Candidate Movie Questions

To engage with these themes, educators often pose questions that challenge viewers to think critically about the film. Below, we outline some typical questions along with their answers.

1. What motivates Bill McKay to run for the Senate?

Answer: Initially, McKay is motivated by a desire to make a difference and

represent the people. He is driven by idealism and a belief in social justice. However, as the campaign progresses, his motivations shift towards winning the election, revealing the complexities of political ambition.

2. How does the film portray the relationship between McKay and his campaign manager, Marvin Lucas?

Answer: The relationship between McKay and Lucas is pivotal. Lucas represents the pragmatic side of politics, often pushing McKay to adopt strategies that compromise his ideals. Their dynamic reflects the tension between maintaining principles and achieving political goals.

3. In what ways does the media play a role in McKay's campaign?

Answer: The media serves as both a tool and an obstacle for McKay. It amplifies his message but also distorts it. The film highlights how sound bites and public appearances can overshadow substantive policy discussions, illustrating the media's power in shaping political narratives.

4. Discuss the significance of McKay's transformation throughout the film.

Answer: McKay's transformation is crucial to understanding the film's message. He starts as an idealist but gradually becomes more aware of the compromises required in politics. By the end, he realizes that winning often comes at the cost of his original beliefs, emphasizing the theme of moral ambiguity in political life.

5. How does the film address the concept of political corruption?

Answer: "The Candidate" addresses political corruption by showing how candidates often must engage in questionable practices to succeed. McKay's journey reveals the ethical dilemmas faced by politicians, suggesting that the system itself may be corrupting.

Character Analysis

Analyzing the characters in "The Candidate" provides further insights into the film's themes. Below are key characters and their significance:

- **Bill McKay:** The protagonist whose journey from idealism to pragmatism encapsulates the film's central conflict.
- **Marvin Lucas:** The campaign manager who embodies the harsh realities of political strategy and compromise.
- **Grace McKay:** Bill's supportive mother, representing the personal stakes involved in public life.
- **Senator:** The incumbent who serves as a foil to McKay, representing traditional politics and the status quo.

Cinematic Techniques

The film's direction by Michael Ritchie and its screenplay co-written by Jeremy Lerner use various cinematic techniques to enhance the storytelling.

1. Cinematography

The cinematography captures the rawness of the campaign trail, using handheld cameras to create a sense of immediacy and realism. This technique immerses viewers in the chaos of political rallies and press conferences.

2. Editing

The editing reflects the frenetic pace of a political campaign, with quick cuts that mirror the urgency and unpredictability of the electoral process. This style emphasizes the external pressures on McKay and the shifting nature of his campaign.

3. Sound and Music

The film's score and sound design contribute to its tone. The music underscores moments of tension and introspection, while the use of ambient

sound immerses viewers in the environment of political events.

Discussion Questions for Educators

Educators can engage students further by posing open-ended discussion questions. Here are some examples:

1. How does the film reflect the political climate of the early 1970s, and what parallels can be drawn to today's political landscape?
2. In what ways does the film challenge the traditional narrative of politicians as unblemished heroes?
3. What lessons about political strategy and campaign management can be gleaned from McKay's experience?
4. How does the portrayal of women in the film contribute to its overall message?

Conclusion

"The Candidate" remains a relevant exploration of the complexities of political life, idealism, and the compromises that come with ambition. The questions and answers provided in this article serve as a starting point for deeper analysis and discussion. Whether for academic purposes, film studies, or casual viewing, understanding the underlying themes and character dynamics enriches the viewing experience. As we reflect on McKay's journey, we are reminded of the enduring challenges faced by those who seek to engage with the political process, making "The Candidate" a timeless study of the human condition within the realm of politics.

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the primary theme of the movie 'The Candidate'?

The primary theme of 'The Candidate' revolves around political ambition, the ethical dilemmas of campaigning, and the impact of media on elections.

Who plays the lead role in 'The Candidate'?

Robert Redford plays the lead role of Bill McKay in 'The Candidate'.

How does 'The Candidate' portray the political campaign process?

The film portrays the political campaign process as a complex interplay of strategy, manipulation, and the struggle between personal convictions and public perception.

What is the significance of the ending in 'The Candidate'?

The ending of 'The Candidate' is significant as it highlights the protagonist's realization of the compromises he made to win, leaving viewers to ponder the cost of political success.

Which year was 'The Candidate' released?

'The Candidate' was released in 1972.

What role does media play in 'The Candidate'?

Media plays a crucial role in 'The Candidate' by shaping public opinion and influencing the campaign narrative, illustrating the power and reach of news outlets in politics.

What awards did 'The Candidate' receive?

'The Candidate' received several nominations, including an Academy Award for Best Original Screenplay and won the BAFTA for Best Editing.

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