

On March 10th, 1864, President Abraham Lincoln ¹ signed a brief document officially promoting then-Major General Ulysses S. Grant to the rank of Lieutenant General of the U.S. Army, tasking the future president with the job ² of being the leader of all the Union troops against the Confederate Army.

The rank of lieutenant general ³ wasn't officially in use since ⁴ 1798, at that time, President John Adams assigned the post to former President George Washington, in anticipation of a possible French invasion of the United States. One of Grant's predecessors in the Civil War, Winfield Scott, had briefly earned the rank, but the appointment was only temporary ⁵ — really, use of the rank had been suspended after George Washington's death in 1799.

In 1862, Lincoln asked Congress to revive the rank of lieutenant general in order to distinguish between the general in charge of all Union forces and other generals of equal rank who served under him in the field. Congress also wanted to reinstate the rank of lieutenant general, but only if Lincoln gave the rank to Grant. ⁶ The seeming incongruity that a lieutenant general outranks a major general is due to the derivation of the latter rank from sergeant major general, which was also subordinate to lieutenant general.

Lincoln preferred to promote then-Commanding General Henry Wagner Halleck to lead the Union ⁷ Army, which had been plagued by a string of ineffective leaders and terrible losses in battle. He was reluctant to promote Grant and risk boosting the general's popularity; at the time Washington was abuzz with rumors that ⁸ much northern senators were considering nominating Grant instead of Lincoln at the 1864 Republican National Convention. After Grant publicly dismissed the idea of running for the presidency, Lincoln submitted to Congress' choice and agreed to give Grant the revived rank. As lieutenant general of the U.S. Army, Grant was answerable only to Lincoln. Well-respected by troops and civilians, Grant earned Lincoln's trust and went on to force the South's surrender in 1865.

⁹ A primary focus of Grant's administration was Reconstruction, and he worked to reconcile the North and South while also attempting to protect the civil rights of newly freed black slaves. While Grant was personally honest, some of his associates ¹⁰ was corrupt and his administration were tarnished by various scandals. After retiring, Grant invested in a brokerage firm that went bankrupt, costing him his life savings. He spent his final days penning his memoirs, which were published the year he died and proved a critical and financial success. Although Grant enjoyed a distinguished career in the military, he wrote that he never consciously chose the life of a soldier. As a student at West Point, he never expected to graduate, let alone lead the entire U.S. Army in a desperate but ultimately successful struggle to preserve the Union. In late 1884, he was diagnosed with throat cancer. Grant died at age 63 on July 23, 1885, in Mount McGregor, New York, in the Adirondack Mountains, ¹¹ which he and his family were spending the summer. The former president was laid to rest in a tomb in New York City's Riverside Park.

Question 1

- A. No change
- B. Were signing
- C. Was signing
- D. Had signed

Question 2

- A. No change
- B. Of leading all troops that were union
- C. Of leading all union troops
- D. Of union leader for all troops

Question 3

- A. No change
- B. Were not in use, officially
- C. Was not in use, officially
- D. Had not officially been used

Question 4

- A. No change
- B. 1978; at that time
- C. 1978, yet at that time
- D. 1978;and, at that time

Question 5

- A. Keep it, because it adds vital information to understanding the character of Ulysses S. Grant.
- B. Keep it, because it adds necessary background information to support the ideas in the paragraph.
- C. Delete it, because it introduces information not relevant to the passage as a whole.
- D. Delete it, because it does not relate to the sentence immediately preceding it.

Question 6

- A. No change
- B. Lincoln had other ideas.
- C. The rank traces its origins to the Middle Ages, where the title of lieutenant general was held by the second in command on the battlefield.
- D. OMIT the underlined portion.

Question 7

- A. No change
- B. Army which,
- C. Army that
- D. Army, that

Question 8

- A. No change
- B. Less
- C. Fewer
- D. many

Question 9

- A. During the war Grant became a national hero.
- B. The Republicans nominated him for president in 1868.
- C. In 1869, Grant became the 18th president of the United States.
- D. The first scandal to taint the Grant administration in 1869 was Black Friday, also known as the Gold Panic.

Question 10

- A. No change
- B. were corrupt and his administration was
- C. were corrupt and his administration were
- D. was corrupt and his administration was

Question 11

- A. No change
- B. With
- C. When
- D. where