

## Two Political Cartoons: Answer Key

**Directions:** Answer the following questions in complete sentences.

Cartoon A:



Why does society need taxes?

*Student responses will vary but may include the need to fund essential public goods and services, the desire to balance the budget and avoid deficits and debt, and, based on the cartoon, some desire for equity or fairness by closing loopholes for the wealthy rather than cutting social programs for people who need them.*

## Cartoon B:

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**“After federal, state, and local taxes, you get one-third of a wish.”**

Can taxes be harmful to the individual or to the economy?

*Student responses will vary. In the cartoon, a Cinderella-like character is getting three wishes taxed. Students might infer that the cartoonist believes this is ridiculous and that “money” is simply being taken from her. Presumably, she will be able to keep only one of the three. If she wished for a fancy horse-drawn carriage, a beautiful dress, and a prince, she would only get one of the three. Emphasize that, with taxation, some costs are direct—the carriage, for example—whereas others are indirect; for example, without a carriage and dress, “Cinderella” won’t get her prince. She’ll indirectly lose “productivity.” She loses the prince and (you might offer this leap), the economy loses whatever she and the prince might have created together—a new kingdom?*