Critical Thinking Questions on Jefferson and Hamilton

Directions: After discussing each slide as a class, discuss the following critical thinking questions in your small group. Appoint a Presenter to tell the rest of the class about your discussion. Rotate the role of Presenter so that everyone has a chance to address the whole class.

Critical Thinking Question A: “All communities divide themselves into the few and the many. The first are the rich and well born; the other, the mass of people.... The people are turbulent and changing; they seldom judge or determine right. Give therefore to the first class a...permanent share in the government...they therefore will ever maintain good government.”

What does this quote mean, in your own words? Who do you think said it, Hamilton or Jefferson? Explain.

Critical Thinking Question B: “Our country is too large to have all affairs directed by a single government.”

What does this quote mean, in your own words? Who do you think said it, Hamilton or Jefferson? Explain.

Critical Thinking Question C: “The small landowners are the most precious part of the state.”

What does this quote mean, in your own words? Who do you think said it, Hamilton or Jefferson? Explain.
Critical Thinking Question D: “It must be by this time evident to all men...that [the Articles of Confederation] is a system so radically vicious and unsound as to admit...an entire change.”

What does this quote mean, in your own words? Who do you think said it, Hamilton or Jefferson? Explain.

Critical Thinking Question E: “The superiority...enjoyed by nations that have... perfected a branch of industry, constitutes a...formidable obstacle.”

What does this quote mean, in your own words? Who do you think said it, Hamilton or Jefferson? Explain.

Critical Thinking Question F: “I consider the foundation of the Constitution as laid on this ground—that all powers not delegated [given] to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states, or to the people...”

What does this quote mean, in your own words? Who do you think said it, Hamilton or Jefferson? Explain.
Critical Thinking Question G: "The powers contained in a constitution...ought to be construed liberally in advancement of the public good."

What does this quote mean, in your own words? Who do you think said it, Hamilton or Jefferson? Explain.

Critical Thinking Question H: "I am not among those who fear the people. They, not the rich, are our dependence for continued freedom."

What does this quote mean, in your own words? Who do you think said it, Hamilton or Jefferson? Explain.