DIRECTIONS
Read the article and answer the questions below.

1. Where was Ashcroft on 9/11? What became the overarching theme for him after the attacks?

2. What was the network for gathering information about terrorism like before 9/11?

3. What critical elements needed to be put together after 9/11?

4. Describe the “paradigm shift” Ashcroft refers to.

5. What were the limits put on the FBI prior to the attacks?

6. What was the importance of “information?”

7. What does Ashcroft think about the information in commercial databases?

8. What is a “national security letter?”

9. What’s different about a national security letter for terrorism vs. prosecution?
10. What new powers were given to the FISA court as part of the Patriot Act?

11. What is an ex parte court? Is FISA one?

12. Did Ashcroft go before the FISA court before the warrantless wiretapping program began?

13. Do you think Ashcroft was trying to hide something in the way he answered question #12? (Opinion)

14. Did Ashcroft think the FISA system was broken and unable to keep up with modern communications?

15. What was the relationship like between Ashcroft and Judge Lamberth?

16. Does Ashcroft believe it was possible to run the warrantless program under FISA?

17. Why do you think Ashcroft declined to comment to question #16? (Opinion)

18. What does Ashcroft say about the concerns of Judge Lamberth regarding the use of information obtained in warrantless wiretaps in court?

19. Do you believe Ashcroft answered question #18 truthfully? (Opinion)

20. What does Ashcroft say about the incident in the hospital, when Andrew Card asked him to sign off on the warrantless wiretap program, while he was sick? Note: According to Jack Goldsmith and James Comey, Ashcroft was heavily sedated during the incident but strongly objected to Andrew Card’s request. This is one of the most controversial incidents of the Bush presidency.

21. What does Ashcroft say about the resolution of the problem?

23. Does Ashcroft believe Americans are going to have less privacy in the future?

24. What does Ashcroft say about the abuses and violations of the law by the FBI?

25. What is your overall impression of Ashcroft after reading this interview? Favorable? Unfavorable? Explain. (Opinion)