**Explain the two characteristics of Ajax that help it achieve its goals.**

The goal of Ajax is Web-applications with rich user interfaces and responsiveness similar to that of desktop applications.

A significant portion of this is responsiveness, or speed. Ajax is meant to significantly increase the speed of user interactions with Web-applications. One characteristic to help accomplish this is that data is stored on server and not on pages. In simple web pages, server executes the whole HTML pages. When user sends a dynamic data to the server the server coverts the whole HTML page into the format which is readable by client. In AJAX a server does not have to convert all the pages, it directly receives and sends the data to the client side. In AJAX development, server has to deal with the data not with the pages. It delivers better performance and scalability.

Secondly, Ajax does not require programmers to learn a new language. Often times programmers are introduced to new technologies or services that require some sort of additional knowledge requirement. Ajax however works off what web developers should already be familiar with in JavaScript and XML. Additionally working with CSS and DOM.

**Explain why the callback function is written as an anonymous function in the request phase function.**

One can pass functions around like variables and return them in functions and use them in other functions. When passing a callback function as an argument to another function, it is only passing the function definition. The function is not being executed parameter. In other words, the function isn’t being passed with the trailing pair of executing parenthesis () like when executing a function. Since the containing function has the callback function in its parameter as a function definition, it can execute the callback anytime. The callback function is not executed immediately. It is “called back” (hence the name) at some specified point inside the containing function’s body. It is written anonymously so that it can be called later inside the function body. Even without a name, it can still be accessed later via the *arguments* object by the containing function.