Concept Question 2-8: What is the outcome of convolving a signal with a step function? With an impulse function?

Convolving a signal with a step integrates the signal up to the time of the convolution.

$$x(t) * u(t) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(\tau) u(t - \tau) d\tau$$

=
$$\int_{-\infty}^{t} x(\tau) d\tau,$$

(ideal integrator) (2.77)

Convolving a signal with an impulse gives the original signal. If the impulse is time-shifted, the original signal is time-shifted by the same amount.

$$x(t) * \delta(t - T) = \int_{-\infty}^{\infty} x(\tau) \,\delta(t - T - \tau) \,d\tau$$
$$= x(t - T).$$
(2.74)