You will be asked to write answers to 3 of the following sets of questions. Each answer should completely address all parts of the question. Some answers require more than others.

**REMEMBER:** The point of an exam is **to evaluate the extent to which you grasp and understand the course material.** You must make use of our class material (the discussions, lectures, handouts, text, and online readings). Also demonstrate your understanding by using YOUR words and YOUR OWN examples. THIS is what you get graded on. You will need to bring a **LARGE “BLUE BOOK”** (Examination Book) to the exam.

1. Discuss the sociological imagination and the meaning behind Mills’ statement “private troubles are often public issues”. How has society’s focus on “the individual” impacted both our understanding of social problems and possible solutions to those problems?

2. Discuss the differences between a “person-blame approach” and a “system-blame approach” to social problems. Also discuss the consequence of each approach as it relates to possible solutions to social problems. Give examples to support your points.

3. Discuss both the functionalist and conflict perspectives and their respective approaches to social problems. How would each of these perspectives explain “drug abuse among poor, inner-city residents?” What does each perspective imply for a solution to the problem?

4. Identify and explain the 3 key aspects of our working definition of social problems (“a socially patterned condition involving harm that is caused by the institutional arrangements of a given society”). Discuss the social patterns present among the “clients” at your service-learning site. If there is a social pattern to the problems people experience, what does that tell us?

5. Discuss at least 2 connections you can make between a problem addressed by your service-learning agency and the issues discussed in the text’s section “Urban Problems” (in Chapter 6).

6. Using your own words and examples, discuss the text’s argument: “The problems of US society are the result of the distribution of power and the form of the economy.” Relate this argument to your service-learning experiences/observations.

7. Discuss why the text identifies the “capitalist economy” and “polity” as structural sources of US environmental problems? Do you agree with the authors’ analysis? Why?

8. Discuss why the text identifies the “growth ethic,” “materialism,” and “belief in individualism” as cultural sources of US environmental problems? Do you agree with the authors’ analysis? Why?

9. Using examples from the online readings regarding the September 11th attack and Chapter 18 of the text, discuss the primary reason why the US might be the target of “terrorists.”