Prepare answers to three of the following questions. Address at least one question from the 19th century list and one from the 20th century list.

19th C:

1. David Theo Goldberg and others have argued that there is a relationship between nationalism and the rise of racial hierarchies. They note that as democracy expands, so does the tendency of societies to institutionalize regimes of difference and, in the case of the United States, to adopt the custom of white privilege. Assess the value of this insight in light of events in the United States in the generation (35 years) following the conclusion of the War of 1812.

2. For decades American historians have grown comfortable dividing their narratives of U.S. history at the Civil War. As you will begin your teaching career on the eve of the third decade of the 21st century, do you believe this remains the crucial "pivot" point in American history? Which historians and which events would argue in favor of retaining the custom; which argue against it?

3. In what areas did the decade of the 1890s represent a turning point in the history of the United States and what was the relationship between the crises of that decade and the reforms of the early twentieth century?

20th C:

1. Although the U.S. was slow to enter both the world wars, historians regard the impact of each as deep and far-reaching. Focus either on World War One or World War Two and discuss the changes that took place in American lives during the war and in such matters as racial and gender roles and relations, labor, reform, the state, and the place of the U.S. in the world after it.

2. Explain the roots of the Cold War and its decline. Provide two examples of you see as typical Cold War interventions by the US and two situations you see as major turning points in this conflict. What motivated the US in its policies during the Cold War and if that struggle is over, what motivates the policies now?

3. Explain the social, political, cultural and economic significance of the rise of industrial cities in twentieth and twenty-first century America? Should urbanization be a central theme in narratives of the past 113 years? Why?