Please answer three questions, including at least one from each section, in clearly argued essays well-supported by evidence.

PART ONE

1. The source of "sectional conflict," and then of the U.S.'s Civil War itself, has been the subject of sharp debate since the war began. Trace the main lines of that debate, identify some of the main participants and their views, and then give and defend your own view of the subject.

2. The history of slavery was, until the 1960s, written with the master/slave relationship at its center. Since the 1960s, it has often been written with slave/slave social relations as the focus. Citing key works, assess the strengths and weaknesses of each approach. Do any studies especially effectively consider both master (and perhaps mistress)/slave relationships and slave/slave ones in the same work.

3. The era of Reconstruction is often described as a revolution in social, economic, constitutional, and political terms. Is this a realistic way to view the period? How would you explain the limits of change during Reconstruction? What were its lasting effects? How do sensitivity to issues of gender and of political violence change our understanding of the period?

PART TWO

4. Compare the long-term impacts of two of the following wars – World War One, World War II, and the Vietnam War – on American international relations, politics, and society. To the extent that changes were similar in each war, how do you explain that -- does war itself create such a powerful dynamic? To the extent that the trajectories of change differed in the two cases, what accounts for that?

5. When and why did the Cold War begin? What do you see as its major turning points? Is it over? How can we tell?

6. “In each of three great periods of liberal reform in the US – 1900 to 1917, the 1930s, and the 1960s – popular social movements were critical in producing the reforms which generally took the form of an extension of federal government authority in addressing social and economic problems.” Discuss with specific references to laws, programs, and movements.