1. Given your exposure to Zinn and your knowledge of the oppression by the ruling elites in the English colonies during the 17th and 18th centuries to control the common people, identify and evaluate Zinn’s thesis regarding to what extent the ideas of protest and later revolution were used as a form of social, political, and economic manipulation and control to avoid class conflict among American colonials yet still direct hostilities toward the British.
2. Consider the rebellions that followed the revolution and acts of governmental control that counter the ideas of the Constitution.
3. How much colonial opposition was there to British rule in 1776?
4. What motivated the colonial poor to fight the British?;
5. Zinn argues that the American Revolutionary “War was making the ruling elite more secure against internal trouble” (p.79). What evidence does Zinn provide to support this assertion?
6. The Battle of Saratoga (1777) brought the French into the war on the side of the Americans. Why was this significant enough to make the Battle of Saratoga the “turning point” of the war.?
7. Which of the following is the most appropriate thesis for the chapter:

A) The Americans won the war only with help from the French.

B) The war was a struggle for power between members of an upper class.

C) Rich men ran the war.

D) General enthusiasm for the war was not strong.

Defend your choice and give reasons for having eliminated the rest.

1. What were the grievances of the American troops who mutinied or rebelled during the American Revolution?
2. What were the methods of control used by the Revolutionary elite to control disobedient and rebellious colonists?
3. How did farmers resist impoverishment?
4. Why did the Indians fight with the British against the colonial rebels?
5. How did blacks respond to the opportunities presented by the Revolutionary War? How effective were their responses?
6. Why did the author of “All men are created equal,” Thomas Jefferson, remain a slaveholder all his life?

14. The US Constitution was: (Defend your choice in detail.)

A) “a work of genius put together by wise, humane men who created a legal framework for democracy and equality.”

B) a work of genius put together by rich men to benefit their economic interests.

C) a work of genius which balances the interests of slaves, indentured servants, women, men without property, and men with property.

D) a compromise between slaveholding interests of the South and moneyed interests of the North.

E) all of the above.

15. Who benefits most from a strong central government? Why?

16. In the months preceding Shays’ Rebellion, what were the grievances of western Massachusetts farmers? What were the state government’s responses (both judicial and legislative) to the grievances of these farmers? What were the Boston merchants’ responses to Shays’ resistance?