1. Explain the nature-nurture debate. How did Sigmund Freud and George Herbert Mead take different position in this debate?

2. Summarize Freud’s theory of human personality, Piaget’s approach to human development, and Mead’s view of the development of the self. What do all the theories have in common? What are the main differences among them?

3. What are the specific contributions to human development made by family, school, peer group, and mass media? Do these agents of socialization always convey the same lessons to people? In your response, provide several specific examples.

4. Describe the various stages of the human life course: childhood, adolescence, adulthood, and old age. What characteristics do most people in the United States associate with each? How do we know that these stages, although linked to biological changes, are mostly a social construction?

5. Based on the material in this chapter of the text, address the issue of human freedom in a socially structured world. That is, to what extent do you think people are free to think and act as they wish? In answering this question, consider the theories presented in the chapter—for example, why does Mead’s theory point to greater human freedom than Freud’s theory?

6. Why is the definition of "growing up" more difficult than it used to be? What are the achievements that lead people to say that someone has become an adult? Why is adolescence longer than it was several generations ago? What difference does social class position make in the time frame for "growing up"?

7. Based on everything you have read in this chapter, what are some of the ways in which girls and boys differ in their socialization experience? Provide specific examples in your response.