1. What is "Islam" and what is a Muslim?
2. List and define the five basic tenets of Islam?
3. List the four countries with the highest Muslim population?
4. What is a "Kurd" and what is a "Berber"?
5. What is the difference between Shi’a and Sunni Muslims?
6. Write your name in Arabic.
7. What percentage of Muslims are Arab?
8. When did the country of Iraq first emerge?
9. List four countries that have a majority Muslim population.
10. What is the most interesting aspect of Islamic culture that you can relate to your own culture or religion?
11. What is the Ottoman Empire and how was Islam brought to Europe?
12. Define “terrorism” and “colonialism.”
13. List the Muslim countries that border the Mediterranean Sea.
14. What is the difference between an Arab and a Muslim?
15. What are the five parts to Geertz’s definition of religion?
16. Explain Geertz’s notion that culture can involve models OF and models FOR behavior.
17. What does Asad conclude to be the most important factors of defining religious symbols (there are 3)?
18. Why does Asad argue against a universal definition of religion?
19. What background does St. Augustine have?
20. What did St. Augustine mean by the word disciplina and how does Talal Asad use this to refute Geertz?
21. According to Geertz, does society shape religion or does religion shape society and in what way?
22. In Dale Eickelman’s piece he compares the traditions of the Sufi with those of mainstream Sunni and Shi’a practice. What were a few of the peculiarities of the Sufi tradition listed in the chapter, and how do they differ from the Sunni and Shi’a traditions?
23. According to Dale Eickelman, what served as a symbol of unity for both Muslims and Christians in Egypt late 1960s and how was it interpreted?
24. According to Eickelman, compare and contrast the Muslim radicals and the Jewish fundamentalists by giving one example each.
25. When Eickelman talks about religious orders, in what ways does he describe the Moroccan’s views concerning the social order?
26. Briefly describe four of Eickelman’s ritual/steps of the Muslims tradition of the pilgrimage, also known as the hajj.
27. Asad, Geertz and Eickelman all had different beliefs on understanding religion and how much politics influences its nature. Explain what each man believes is the essence behind religion through examples given by the authors, and address the role politics plays in their definition as well.
28. From Eickelman, discuss the Muslim Brotherhood and the role of Sayyid Qutb in the movement.
29. List the five pillars of Islam with their Arabic names.
30. What are three main conclusions that can be drawn from the Eickelman’s discussion of Alevi identity?
31. As discussed in Eickelman, use some of Bryan S. Turner’s examples found on page 269 to illustrate the differences between Christian and Muslims view on saints.
32. What does Ali consider to be one of the tragedies of “modern” Islam?
33. Who were the Mu'tazilites and what distinguished their beliefs?
34. What was the main religious conflict that caused the split between Shi’a and Sunni Muslims?
35. What is Ali’s view of tradition within Islam? (Hint: does he believe that the Koran was a gift from Allah or invented by people?)
36. According to Ali, when and why did Muslim oppression of women begin?
38. Explain the following excerpt, addressing why Ali believes heresy is not always a negative attribute of religion: "The poverty of contemporary Islamic thought contrasts with the riches of the ninth and tenth centuries" (p. 54).

39. Compare and contrast the view of Ali and Sardar/Davies on the oppression of women in Islamic societies.

40. Why does Ali believe that Islam has not been a religion of the same traditions over the centuries? In your answer, explain the role of the "war of traditions" (p. 52) between the Sunni and Shi‘a and the role of the Mu‘tazilites in context of the history of Islam.

41. According to his chapter, "Women Versus Eternal Masculinity," how does Ali feel that women's suppression progressed during the time of the Prophet Muhammad's life and after his life? In what ways was the oppression of women implemented?

42. While criticized for many things during his term as Caliph, what do Sardar and Davies consider to be the “single greatest achievement” of Othman (p56)?

43. Discuss the main differences between Shi‘a and Sunni Muslims. What was the cause of the schism?

44. Discuss the effects (cultural/economic) that the expansion of Islamic empires had on Indian, China and Africa. (Sardar and Davies Ch4)

45. Explain the function of the madrassa as part of Muslim education.

46. Discuss how the coming together of numerous civilizations aided in the development of Muslim education and knowledge.

47. Name two factors that added to the downfall of Muslim civilization, according to Sardar and Davies.

48. Opposing colonial expansion produced localized resistance influenced by particular circumstances in different parts of the Muslim world. Discuss one such resistance movement that grew out of the Muslim world as described by Sardar and Davies.

49. What two experimental sciences were established by Muslim civilization, as read in Sardar and Davies?

50. According to Sardar and Davies, how have 21st century fundamentalists negatively impacted the Muslim world internally as well as the non-Muslims’ view of the Muslim world? Give two examples in which fundamentalists have come to power in a Muslim country and describe the countries’ current situation and conditions.

51. According to Sardar and Davies, why have most Muslim states chosen to reject “democracy?”

52. How does Islam clash with notions of Liberal democracy?

53. How is Islam in accordance with Liberal democracy?

54. Contrast understandings of “democracy” in the Berber village described by Prof. Crawford and in the USA.

55. What is jihād in the context of Islam societies and modernity?

56. How have contemporary understandings of the sharia “closed the gates of jihād” and what does this mean for Muslim states in changing times?

57. Europeans commonly believe that Europe’s colonial influence and power over Muslim society occurred due to superior technology and enterprise. Sardar and Davies offer a different reason, explain briefly what they think. (p. 95)

58. Give a materialist account of the rise of Europe that follows the thinking of Talal Asad.

59. Give a culturalist account of the rise of Europe that follows the thinking of Clifford Geertz.

60. Beginning in the 15th century, colonialism created new divisions in the Muslim world which had a large affect on civil administration, social affairs, education and intellectual life. These divisions included language, economic dislocation, and new forms of economic development. Choose one of these divisions and briefly explain its affect. (Sardar and Davies p. 98)

61. Islam taught Europe the true meaning of civic culture and civilization. One example of this was Islam’s influence on math on Europeans. Give two other examples if their influence.

62. Explain how Islamic civilization can be considered part of “the West.”