1. Explain the case of U.S. v. Nixon. What was the central issue of the case? What argument did Nixon’s lawyer make, and why did he believe that the Constitution was at stake? What argument did the special prosecutor make, and why did he believe the Constitution was at stake? How did the Supreme Court decide the case, and how did it explain its decision?

2. How does the case of Roe v. Wade illustrate judicial policy-making? Be sure to discuss the reason that the case was started in a federal district court, the reasons it was appealed and the courts to which it was appealed, the problem of “standing,” the Supreme Court’s final decision and its impact on politics.

3. What are the five measures of American prosperity, according to lecture? How is the U.S. economy performing on each measure?

4. According to Jillson, why is the ideal of the free market so attractive to Americans in theory? Why is government indispensable for free markets? According to class, Americans constantly ask government to intervene in markets for five reasons. Explain and give examples of each of these five reasons. Be specific.

5. What was the Social Security Act of 1935, and what programs did it create? What are “non-contributory” programs for the poor? Be sure to explain means-testing, in cash and in-kind benefits. What are contributory programs for the middle class? Which programs cost more: non-contributory programs for the poor, or contributory programs for the middle class.

6. Describe the six "tough choices” any nation must make in dealing with other countries, according to lecture. Use clear examples.

7. Describe the process of nominating and confirming Chief Justice John Roberts (Jillson, Chapter 12, pages 385-387). Describe the decisions of the Roberts Court on school desegregation, Guantanamo Bay, and Citizens United. Be specific.

8. According to Jillson (Chapter 12, pages 389-392), how does the Supreme Court work? How has the Court used its discretion to hear and resolve cases? What kinds of cases does it choose to hear, and what is the “rule of four”? What happens when the court “sits”? What happens in a “conference” or “closed session”? What is “judicial activism” and what are its limits? Give clear examples.

9. Jillson discusses four perspectives on modern economic management in Chapter 15 (Chapter 15, pages 473-475): traditional conservatism, Keynesianism, supply-side economics, and monetarism. Clearly describe each of these approaches, including the most important emphasis of the approach and the kinds of people or parties that have used this approach.

10. Is education mainly a federal or a state and local responsibility, according to Jillson? (Chapter 15, pages 492-494)? What is the problem with education spending and achievement today? What are the chief features of the No Child Left Behind law, and why is it controversial? What is the “Race to the Top”? Be specific.

11. Describe the dilemma of national deficits and debt, according to Jillson (Chapter 15, pages 494-496). When does a deficit occur, and what is the national debt? How has the debt changed over time? When was the last budget surplus? How did the deficit worsen in the 2000s and why? What problems do deficits and the national debt pose?

12. What is the “multipolar” world economy, according to Jillson (Chapter 16, pages 521-523)? Identify and describe the three major trading blocs in the modern multipolar economy. How important are exports and imports to the US economy? How can the U.S. be more competitive, according to Joseph Nye?

13. What is the scope of U.S. military power, according to Jillson (chapter 16, pages 524-518)? Be sure to discuss expenditures and the U.S.’s global commitments. What are the key elements of the “Bush doctrine,” and how did they differ from the key elements of postwar American foreign policy? Be specific.

14. According to Jillson, what are the three key questions involving energy (chapter 16, 530-533)? Describe OPEC. Describe U.S. dependence on oil, coal & natural gas? What are the problems of oil and coal? Discuss changes in energy use in China & India.

15. Thoroughly define and distinguish a “transformational” and a “transactional” president, according to Joseph H. Nye in “Do Presidents Matter?” (Annual Editions, pages 81-83). What types of president were Woodrow Wilson, Dwight (“Ike”) Eisenhower, George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush? Explain why he describes the behavior of each of these presidents as transformational or transactional, and whether this behavior produced failure or success.

16. According to Jeffrey Rosen (Annual Editions, pages 128-130), what is the main theme that concerns Supreme Court Chief Justice John Roberts? Why does he consider this important? How does Roberts’s concern compare to the approach of Chief Justice John Marshall? How does this concern explain Roberts’ vote to uphold the constitutionality of the Affordable Care Act? Explain clearly.

17. How do (1) taxes, (2) income redistribution, and (3) the complexity of the tax code in the US compare to other nations, according to Andrea Campbell (Annual Editions, pages 232-237). Be specific, and use specific examples.

18. How does political partisanship affect Congressional efforts to limit the president’s use of war powers, according to William G. Howell and Jon C. Pevehouse (Annual Editions, pages 108-112)? How did Congress influence the agenda during the discussion of the vote on authorizing military force in Iraq in 2002? Be clear and specific.

19. According to Robert Dallek in “The Tyranny of Metaphor” (Annual Editions pages 252-263), there are three historical myths that have been leading American presidents into folly for nearly a century. For each of the three, (1) name the myth, (2) carefully and clearly define it; (3) give examples of the way the myth has affected foreign policy choices; and (4), describe specifically the mistakes that occurred when a president made decisions based on the myth. Be specific and clear.

20. Describe the way American influence in the world is “just coming back to normal,” according to Paul Kennedy (Annual Editions pages 264-266). How did the US achieve its extraordinary position? How are American “soft power,” economic power, and military power all a part of a three legged stool of American influence in the world? Describe how each of these “legs” have been changing; be sure to mention public approval of the US in other countries, American currency, the rise of irregular warfare and the growing military strength of other nations.