1. Discuss the changes in the American economy during the postwar period. Be sure to discuss the agricultural, industrial, and consumer sectors of the economy.

2. The Nixon-Khrushchev debates held in the setting of a suburban kitchen illustrated how freedom in America had come to mean economic abundance and consumer choices during the 1950s. Write an essay that demonstrates this definition of freedom and that explains the historical significance of those debates.

3. Thinking back to the chapter on the 1920s, compare and contrast the consumerism of that decade with the 1950s. How did the economic prosperity of each decade affect the meaning Americans gave to freedom?

4. *House Beautiful* magazine stated that the country’s most powerful weapon in the Cold War was “the freedom offered by washing machines and dishwashers, vacuum cleaners, automobiles, and refrigerators.” Analyze this statement, explaining how consumerism was used in the 1950s to combat the Cold War. Is consumerism used today as a tool of American foreign policy?

5. Explain the role of women in 1950s American society. What were women expected to do? What kind of work did they perform? How was this idealized lifestyle supposed to be a weapon in the Cold War? Be sure to use Richard Nixon’s kitchen debate in your answer, as well as the idea that the home became the center of freedom.

6. American foreign policies in Third World countries were determined by Cold War doctrine. Explain American foreign policy in the Third World during the Eisenhower Administration. Be sure to discuss Iran, Guatemala, and Vietnam.

7. Historian Carl Degler titled his book on the years 1945 to 1966 *The Age of Affluence and Anxiety*. Thinking back to the previous chapter as well, does this title accurately portray the paradox of the 1950s? Why, or why not?

8. The civil rights movement gained momentum in the 1950s, nearly ninety years after Reconstruction. Explain why the movement finally took off in the 1950s. What caused it to do so? Be sure to think back to previous chapters.

9. Martin Luther King becomes the perfect leader for the civil rights movement in the South. Defend this statement by explaining what he brought to the movement. Be sure to employ the *Voices of Freedom* excerpt in your answer.

10. The conservative movement was not a cohesive movement. Explain the positions taken by libertarians versus the new conservatives. How did each understand the meaning of freedom?

11. What were William Whyte’s *The Organization Man*, Vance Packard’s *The Hidden Persuaders*, and John Kenneth Galbraith’s *The Affluent Society* all critical about in American society? Speak to each author’s specific concerns, but look at them as a whole as well and explain what they predict for America in the next decade.