1. We discussed chapters 8 and 9 of Jared Diamond's book *Guns, Germs and Steel* in class. These chapters dealt with differences in the biological endowments of plants and animals for different regions of the world. Summarize some other important idea from earlier in the book (before chapter 8). Why is the idea important? Evaluate the merits of the idea and explain any criticisms you may have.

2. Economists interested in prehistory generally want information about natural resources, technology, population, preferences, and institutions. For a foraging society that existed several thousand years ago, explain what kind of evidence is typically available for each of these variables. Describe the problems that generally arise when an economist tries to obtain evidence on each variable, and say how these problems might be handled.

3. Archaeologists often treat 'population pressure' as an exogenous variable. However, economists interested in prehistory often treat population as an endogenous variable. From an economic point of view, what are the exogenous variables that determine the equilibrium level of population in a hunter-gatherer society? What is the theoretical justification for this framework? What is the empirical evidence that supports it?

4. Consider the paper by Dow and Reed (2008) called "Stagnation and Innovation Before Agriculture". What is this paper about? What are the main theoretical points Dow and Reed are trying to make? Is their theory consistent with what you know about hunter-gatherer societies in the Upper Paleolithic? Why or why not?

5. What is the difference between cultivation and domestication? What are some factors that tend to shorten the time lag from cultivation to domestication? List three important regions of the world that had pristine transitions to agriculture. For each region, describe a few major plants and/or animals that were domesticated there, and give an approximate date for the earliest evidence of domestication (not cultivation).

6. Suppose Cohen (1989) is correct that (a) early farmers had worse nutrition than their hunter-gatherer predecessors, and (b) early farmers also had more disease. Discuss the possible causes of facts (a) and (b). Then say whether these observations make some theories about the origins of agriculture more likely to be true, and whether they make some theories less likely to be true. Explain your reasoning.