1. Identify the main idea(s) of the following terms: (Provide examples where possible)
   (a) acculturation vs formal education
   (b) social placement
   (c) gatekeeping
   (d) social promotion
   (e) correspondence principle
   (f) tracking
   (g) functional illiterate
   (h) mainstreaming

2. The text suggests that we have become a "credential society." (Provide examples to illustrate or support your answers.)
   (a) What does this mean, and what are the implications of this notion?
   (b) To what extent do you think this is true?
   (c) What are the possible advantages and disadvantages of a credential society?

3. Briefly summarize the transition of the education process from acculturation to formal education. What factors caused or encouraged this transition?

4. Compare the major differences between the educational systems of Japan, the former Soviet Union, and Egypt.

5. The functionalist perspective suggests that the education institution has both manifest and latent functions. Provide several examples of each.

6. The conflict theory perspective argues that underlying the stated goals of education is a “hidden curriculum.”
   (a) What is this hidden curriculum and what are its effects on society? (Give examples)
   (b) To what extent do you think that the conflict theorists’ arguments are supported by evidence? (Provide examples supporting your conclusions.)

7. Briefly summarize the main idea(s) or finding(s) of the Rist research and the Rosenthal/Jacobson experiment. What caused the effects found in these studies. To what extent have you (or others you know) been affected by the processes described in the studies? Elaborate.

8. A general theme of this chapter is that current educational standards in the U.S. are on the decline.
   (a) To what extent do you think the evidence supports this view? (Provide supporting examples.)
   (b) In what ways, if any, do you think your earlier educational experience (grammar school through high school) could have been more productive?
   (c) If you think you had a very good pre-college educational experience, what major factors do you think contributed to that success (e.g., personal efforts, parental support, good teacher, etc.)? Elaborate.
   (c) In your opinion (based on your experience and the experience of others you have known), what changes in the U.S. educational system would make it more effective? How/why would these changes help?