NOTE: Your answer will be stronger if it includes:
(a) relevant theoretical ideas and concepts; and
(b) factual evidence and/or everyday examples to support and/or illustrate your discussion.

Essay Specifications:
1. The essay must be typed (approximately 5-7 pages, but there is no maximum number).
2. You must use at least 3 internet references as background sources for your essay. They must be academically credible sources. Your internet source information should be integrated into your discussion (and cited, using the APA format). That is, you shouldn't merely include the internet information as a direct quote or summary. You should demonstrate that you understand how the reference information relates to the rest of your discussion. If you don't include the 3 internet sources your score is reduced by 5 points.
3. You must use the American Psychological Association (APA) format for in-text citations and your References list.
4. You should include an alphabetized References list at the end of your essay.
5. If I have questions about possible plagiarism in your essay you will need to submit an electronic copy of the essay, which I will check through TurnItIn. So make sure the work you turn in is your own.

Question #1:
Virtually every aspect of your daily life is affected by the culture in which you live.
(a) Discuss the main concepts and processes that sociologists use to understand how cultures differ from one another (e.g., values, norms, sanctions, language, gestures). You should not simply define these terms, but show how they work together in a culture. Also describe the difference between ethnocentrism and cultural relativism, and discuss how this distinction is important in understanding cultures.
(b) Provide concrete examples comparing how these cultural elements (e.g., values, etc.) differ for American society and some particular other society. Discuss how these differences make everyday life different for you and a member of the other society.
(c) The text argues that technology (e.g., media, internet, international business) increases the likelihood of "cultural diffusion" (i.e., the spread of cultural characteristics between cultures) and "cultural leveling" (i.e., similarity between cultures). Discuss the main ideas of these concepts (cultural diffusion and cultural leveling) and provide examples of each concept between the United States and other cultures. Discuss the pros and cons of cultural leveling.

Question #2:
Sociologists argue that without the contact and social interaction of other human beings it would be impossible for individuals to become truly "human." Socialization is the general process by which we learn to become functioning members of social units (e.g., groups, society).
(a) Using the information on humans and animals that have been deprived of social interaction and the information on identical twins, discuss the relative contribution of nature versus nurture (i.e., heredity versus social environment) to our development into "human" beings.
(b) Different theorists have attempted to explain how we become functioning individuals by developing a self, cognitive reasoning skills, moral reasoning, and a personality. Discuss the main ideas of the following theorists relating to these developmental processes:
Cooley and Mead
Piaget
Kohlberg
Freud
(c) One area of socialization that has a major effect on your life is gender socialization. The text suggests that the family and the mass media significantly affect our understanding of what it means to be male or female, and how the behaviors, attitudes, emotions, etc. of each should differ. Discuss how these two socializing agents encourage different expectations for males and females. Provide examples to illustrate your discussion.
(d) The text identifies a number of agents of socialization, and suggests how they affect the socialization process. Discuss in detail how different agents of socialization have shaped your own socialization experience.