ESSAY REVIEW QUESTIONS FOR EXAM #1

One of the following 3 questions will be randomly selected on the day of the exam to constitute the essay section of Exam #1

1. Using any major theoretical orientation we have covered in text or lectures (e.g., reinforcement/exchange, cognitive, symbolic interactionism, etc.), give a brief overview of the major processes and concepts of the theory, suggest a hypothesis which describes the expected relationship between 2 variables, and tell in some detail how you would use one of the major research methods (e.g., survey, experiment, naturalistic observation) to collect data to test your hypothesis.

More specifically, you would want to discuss at least the following areas:
(a) An overview of the theory you have chosen
(b) A hypothesis derived from the theory
(c) The independent and dependent variables of your hypothesis
(d) How each variable would be measured (i.e., operational definitions)
(e) The type of research method you think would be most appropriate for your study, why it would be most appropriate, and the specific procedures you would go through to produce data to test your hypothesis
(f) Outcomes that would support or disconfirm your hypothesis
(g) Any methodological or ethical problems you think might be associated with your study

2. The person you are today is largely the cumulative effect of the social processes of socialization and development of self identity. This question asks you to address these processes in the 2 following ways:
(a) Summarize the major ideas, processes, and/or concepts of both socialization and the "self". In this part of the question you are dealing with these ideas at a general level. That is, what are the main theories, concepts, and issues social psychologists have found useful in understanding these phenomena, and what major findings have been produced in researchers' attempts to understand them?
(b) Discuss how the information you have discussed in the previous section applies to you personally. That is, you would want to discuss such issues as the following (in addition to any others you find useful in dealing fully with the question of "Who Am I?"):  
   1) How have the processes of conditioning, modeling, and internalization affected the development of who you are today?
   2) How would you describe your "self-concept" (e.g., attribution of characteristics, self-image, level of self-esteem), how have particular "significant others" influenced this description, and how does your conception of self influence your interaction with others?

3. Using the appropriate chapters from the text as a basis (and supplemented by any relevant information given in lectures, discussion, and/or exercises):
(a) Choose ONE of the following topics:
   (1) "social relationships and groups" (Chapter 4)
   (2) “communication” (Chapter 5)
(b) Discuss the main ideas, processes, and/or concepts of the topics you've chosen.
(c) Provide examples of the effects of the concepts and processes you discuss on a person's everyday interaction.