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. The person you are today is largely the cumulative effect of the social processes of socialization (early childhood and over the life course).
   (a) Summarize major ideas, processes, and/or concepts of socialization throughout the life cycle. 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? (Reference Source: Chapters 2 and 3)
   (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:
      (1) How have the processes of conditioning, modeling, and internalization affected the development of who you are today?
      (2) Identify the birth cohort to which you belong, and discuss major shared life experiences and how they have shaped your cohort (e.g., values, attitudes, lifestyle preferences, music, etc.).

2. The groups you belong to and the relationships you participate in significantly affect your interaction in everyday life. For each of the following group-related concepts (or comparisons of concepts):
   (a) Identify the main idea(s) of the concepts and/or comparison and how the concept affects a person’s life. Don’t just define the term; clarify and elaborate on each concept and its effects.
   (b) Provide examples showing specifically and in some detail how your participation in these groups and categories have affected your life:
      (1) aggregate vs social category vs group
      (2) primary group vs secondary group
      (3) ingroup vs outgroup
      (4) reference group
      (5) birth cohort
      (6) ethnocentrism vs cultural relativism

3. Probably the most important process affecting social interaction is communication. For each of the following concepts, processes, or issues, make sure you discuss:
   (a) the main ideas of each concept or process in some detail
   (b) how/why the differences (between concepts) are important in everyday interaction
   (c) specific examples that illustrate how the theoretical idea(s) affect everyday interaction
      (1) symbols vs significant symbols (including language and gestures)
      (2) verbal vs nonverbal behavior (including strengths and weaknesses of each)
      (3) gender differences in communication
      (4) definition of the situation
      (5) spacing norms
      (6) facework