**Questions on Iran Briefing (pp 30-50)**

1. What is “anti-clericalism” and how does it impact Iranian society today?

2. Iranians suffer censorship and curtailment of other central civil liberties, and yet the past 20 years as seen a kind of flowering of Iranian contemporary culture. How can you explain this contradiction? Be sure to discuss some specific ways that Iranians’ civil liberties are curtailed.

3. Describe elections and voter participation in Iran. Are you surprised by the degree to which Iranians vote? Explain.

4. Who are (in general) the political elites in Iran and how are these people selected/groomed for their positions? Don’t forget that Iran has political elite members that are not a part of the clergy!

5. Discuss the changing fortunes of women’s rights in Iran. Are women better off now that before the Revolution or worse off?

6. Describe the main economic pressures on Iran today. How much control does the government have in improving incomes and job prospects for Iranians today?

7. What is an “informal economy”? Identify two major groups/institutions that play an important role in Iran’s informal economy.

8. Does Iran classify as a rentier state? What are the problems associated with Iran’s reliance on oil? How is this tied to the persistent deficits that Iran has experienced in recent years?

9. Discuss two main public policy issues that Iran faces and further discuss the ways in which those problems are being addressed.