1) There is considerable confusion and conflicting evidence about trends in urban spatial segregation in Latin America and other developing regions. Outline what you see as the major trends of the last twenty years in the large cities of a developing region, paying attention to the scale of segregation and the degree of isolation of low-income groups. Discuss the extent to which these trends can be explained by economic globalization or factors specific to the ecology and institutions of particular cities and countries. Base your argument on a comparison of two or more major cities in Latin America or elsewhere.

2) What defines a “global city” and a ‘world city’? What are the differences between these concepts? What are their links to other theoretical perspectives in the Urbanization and Development literature? To what extent and in what ways are the urban dynamics of global/world cities significantly different and more exogenously driven than those of other large urban centers?

3) In “Age of Migration” Castels and Miller site a report stating “development and the availability of new and better jobs at home is the only way to diminish migratory pressures over time” (CSIMCED—quoted on page 119), and later state that “the mobility of people will remain a key issue in development strategies in the less developed world”. What are some of the ways in which the development-migration link is manifested?

4) EITHER: Scholarship in the area of assimilation utilizes a wide variety of economic, social and cultural measures to assess assimilation levels.

A) Describe and discuss specific measures used to assess the assimilation of international migrants into the United States.
B) Critically analyze how well these factors measure the concept of assimilation?
C) Suggest, briefly, some other approaches that researchers might take to allow for a more complete understanding of assimilation.

OR: Several studies note the benefits of initial settlement in cultural enclaves for migrants, yet other scholars note the limiting effect enclave residence may have on assimilation processes and economic advancement. Broadly assess the literature to date on the enabling and disabling effects of enclave residence on migrant cultural and economic assimilation. Include in your assessment, how these effect change with migrant duration and generation.
5) EITHER: Research on the role of remittances in the economic development of sending countries appears mixed, with scholar and many international organizations arguing that remittances represent a valuable source of investment capital and a new path for economic development, and other research pointing to the empirically dismal effect of remittances on economic development in expansion in sending countries.

A) Broadly assess the main arguments on each side of the debate.

B) Select a sending country of your choice to illustrate one side of the debate and briefly explain how remittances are viewed by scholars and policy makers in terms of development.

C) How well are remittances tracked in the country you selected in part B? Might issues relating to the measurement and monitoring of remittances influence the views of policy makers and scholars?

OR: In “Age of Migration” Castels and Miller site a report stating “development and the availability of new and better jobs at home is the only way to diminish migratory pressures over time” (CSIMCED—quoted on page 119), and later state that “the mobility of people will remain a key issue in development strategies in the less developed world”. What are some of the ways in which the development-migration link is manifested?

6) Who, or perhaps what, migrates? Compare and contrast theoretical models of migration decision making at the individual, familial, community, network, and system level. Which level of focus, in your opinion, best captures the processes of migration decision making? Why?

7) Recent policy debates in the United States and Western Europe have focused on the question of how to reduce the inflow of migrants to these countries. These debates presuppose that there are substantial costs associated with immigration. What is the evidence regarding the costs and benefits of recent international migration to the US and Western Europe? Second, how can demographic research into the origins of international migration help inform policy makers regarding the kinds of policies that are more likely to be effective in reducing international migration?