Chapter 1 Reading Focus: Pages 1-10 (Intro-The spatial perspective)
What fraction of the world’s population is malnourished? Why do you think it is that women and children suffer the most?

Look at the food consumption map on pages 2-3. Comment on some of the patterns you see on the map and speculate as to why they might exist...

What are the three major causes of malnourishment according to DeBlij?

Why is it that Bangladeshis starve despite having 70% arable land while Norwegians are well fed with only 4% arable land?

Why is the rate of malnutrition in Kenya over 30% despite having one of the most fertile areas in the world in their highlands?

Why do Kenyans continue to grow coffee instead of food?

What are some of the factors contributing to poverty and malnutrition in Kenya?

Consider the map on pages 6-7. Do the wealthiest countries from the map on pages 4-5 seem to be blessed with the most arable land? Find three specific instances of countries whose wealth is not reflected in their percentage of arable land...(This works both ways: you can look for countries with lots of arable land and little wealth or vice versa...

What is the focus of Human Geography?
What is globalization? How can it be seen at scales ranging from local to global, i.e. How do the processes of globalization appear?

With what is the field of Physical Geography concerned?

Why are geographers so concerned with the spatial distribution of phenomena?

Where did cholera first arise? What is a pandemic? Speculate as to how it spread from its hearth to London during the 19th century...

How did Snow figure out that Cholera was a waterborne illness?

Look at the map on page 10... There is a pocket to the north of the Broad Street Pump that has very few cases of cholera... Speculate as to why that might be...

What is the difference between an epidemic and a pandemic?

There was a cholera outbreak in Myanmar this summer and in Northern Iraq this spring. Why do you think that this ancient disease still plagues certain parts of the world?
Chapter 1 Reading Focus: Pages 10-20 (The spatial perspective - Scale and Connectedness)
List and (very briefly) describe each of the 5 themes of Geography...

Define cultural landscape. Which social scientist is associated with the concept. How does he define the term?

What is sequent occupancy? How is Dar es Salaam a good example of the concept? Think of another example of sequent occupancy...

Compare the maps on pages 14-15? Discuss why they might appear as they do...

What is Absolute Location? What is it useful for?

What is Relative location? How can it change over time? Speculate as to how Japan might be a good example of changing relative location.
What are mental maps? How do we create them? Draw the state of California in the space provided below without consulting a map. Now draw Colorado. Now draw Bulgaria. Check your answers and briefly discuss which of your maps was most accurate and why...

Describe your activity space on a given school day...

How is the map on pages 18-19 an example of a generalized map? In what ways can generalized maps be misleading? What do you notice about the importance of the Atlantic ocean in relation to global precipitation?

What is remote sensing and how is it useful?

How do geographers use GIS? Give a couple of examples...
Chapter 1 Reading Focus: Pages 20-31 (Scale and Connectedness - Summary)
Compare figures 1.3 and 1.14. It might appear that all American’s are wealthy according to 1.3, but is that actually the case? Consider the regional variations of wealth in the United States. Where is wealth concentrated? Briefly discuss some surprising states in map 1.14.

What is rescaling? When is it necessary?

How does one define a region? Consider the Amazon Basin… How would you define that region?

What is a formal region. Give a few examples of formal regions…

What are functional regions? How are they defined? What is the functional region of San Diego?

How do we define the boundaries of perceptual regions? Consider the American South (the most well defined perceptual region in the U.S.) Where do you think the South is, where does it begin?
What is Culture?

Components of culture (increasing in size), define and give an example of each:
  Culture trait:

  Culture complex:

What are Culture hearths? What are the effects of innovation on human population?
Where are some important culture hearths, what are they associated with?

What is Independent invention? Can you give an example as it pertains to agriculture?

What is Cultural diffusion? How do time and distance affect diffusion?

What might some cultural barriers to diffusion be? Think of a food taboo that we have in the U.S. that might not hold true in other parts of the world…

What is expansion diffusion?
What are the three major forms of expansion diffusion? List and give an original example of each...

How might fax machines and AIDS be examples of hierarchical diffusion?

How does relocation diffusion work? Think of examples of how relocation diffusion has affected the cultural landscape of Linda Vista...

Consider possibilism and environmental determinism:
How are Huntington and Cushing’s determinist opinions racist in nature?

How does Diamond forward ideas of possibilism in *Guns, Germs, and Steel*? To what extent is he an environmental determinist? How does cultural ecology enter into his book?

Complete the Thinking Geographically exercise on page 31. Write your statement below: