GEOG 371 Mexico & Central America Study questions for finals week closed note exam.

All or almost all of the exam questions will come from the following group. I will not have all of the listed questions on the final.

From Rhoda & Burton

Outline the highlights of Mexican urbanization for each period starting with the regime of Porfirio Diaz and then extending through the other four later periods. Summarize rates of urban growth, causes, and if described…consequences.

Describe each of the various challenges of water in Mexico City, beginning with the Aztecs to the present. Include what actions have been taken to address each of these challenges, and the consequences of these actions.

Describe the causes and consequences of air pollution in Mexico City, together with policies implemented to address the problem, and how well these policies have worked.

From Williams

What are the two fundamental forces that have helped cause the peasant uprisings in Central America? What made these forces more effective, beginning in the 1950s and 1960s?

What export contributed most to the struggles over land by the 1970s? Explain why this export had such a large impact. (see also page 30) Why, conversely, did the increases in the land area devoted to the export crops of coffee, bananas, cotton, and sugar not involve so much conflict?

Contrast the responses of Nicaragua, El Salvador, and Guatemala, with the governmental responses of Costa Rica and Honduras to the conflicts over land.

In summary, what are the three causes of the poor in Central America becoming more willing to challenge the existing order?

From Vandermeer & Perfecto

List the six stage process of rainforest and tropical land destruction, and how the mainstream environmental movement attempts to prevent this destruction, and how the political ecology strategy approaches the problem.

Identify where most of the nutrient stock in tropical rainforest environments is found. Summarize three reasons why tropical rainforests are not usually agriculturally productive, and how perennial crops can potentially overcome these limitations.

Critique the following stand-alone statements about tropical rainforest destruction: 1) a key driver is high birth rates in rural areas, 2) the cattle are eating the forest, and 3) cash crop production for export to the wealthy nations of the Global North is the key cause. (utilize concepts of the web of causality to buttress and explain your answers.)

Explain when and why Nicaragua had relatively high deforestation rates on the Atlantic side, when it has had lower rates of deforestation there, and causes of each.

In Chapter 11, there are three fundamental questions that the book has sought to solve. Identify what question two is, its answer, and how exactly that answer considers the dynamics of the web of causality in its strategies.