Essay and Discussion Questions: East Asia and the Pacific

Understand
1. How have Japanese and European colonization shaped East Asia and the Pacific?
2. What are the sources of geopolitical tension among the Northeast Asian countries?
3. What have been the main elements of U.S. foreign policy in East Asia and the Pacific? How have they changed over time?
4. How has the standard of living in East Asia and the Pacific changed over time?
5. What is the political model developed by Singapore and adopted by China under Xi Jinping? How is it distinct from the models of these countries’ neighbors?

Analyze
6. China, Japan, and the Four Asian Tigers all saw huge economic growth in the last few decades. What made this growth possible? How did these countries’ paths to economic success differ?
7. Why does China have such immense influence in the region?

Evaluate
8. On balance, is the region’s large population an asset or a liability?
9. What are the region’s greatest challenges?
10. What should U.S. policy toward China be?