I. History of England Until 600 B.C.

Cave dwellers inhabited Britain until around 600 B.C., when a number of ___________ tribes, each with its own king, invaded. The tribes warred constantly with one another and the other inhabitants of Britain, the Scottish Picts.

We know that around 300 B.C. the Celts or “Brythons” did live in Britain. These blond warriors had a highly developed ___________, ___________, and ___________ system with individual rights. Their religion was called ___________ in which spirits took natural and unnatural shapes and forms. Priests called ___________ were the intermediaries between the gods and the people. The legend of King Arthur was derived from a number of Celtic legends and the most famous of the legends comes from Sir Thomas Mallory’s *Le Morte Darthur*.

II. Roman Occupation

Julius Caesar invaded the island in 55 B.C.; Rome controlled Britain until around 410, when Romans left to tend to problems at home. During this time ___________ overcame the Celtic religion and the Celtic beliefs slowly faded.

Trouble at home (Egypt) forced the Roman army to withdrawal. If it were not for this, England would actually speak Italian. But shortly after the Roman’s withdrew, Latin vanished and Celtic again became the dominant tongue.

III. Arrival of the Germanic Tribes

From the European mainland came a number of Germanic tribes: ___________, ___________ (from Germany) and ___________ (from Denmark). The Anglo-Saxon tongue became the dominant tongue and this is where we get England (Engla Land). The Celts put up a strong resistance, but they failed and headed toward Wales.

By the mid-500’s, the Germanic tribes, and their language, had taken over Britain. Between the 5th and 11th centuries, England was a ___________, or seven-kingdom structure. The Angles controlled 3 out of 7 kingdoms, the Saxons 3, and the Jutes 1. Each had its own ___________

IV. The Heroic Life

The culture of the Germanic settlers early in England’s history was a ___________ society, ruled by a number of warrior-kings. The country was divided into many small kingdoms, each overseen by a ruling king or ___________. Old English, or Anglo-Saxon literature, is concerned with the ___________ life. The vital relationship of the heroic life is that between retainer (the ___________) and lord (______________). The retainer’s binding virtue is ___________. Continuing loyalty is ensured in the lord’s giving of ___________ to the thane. By giving gifts of worth and staging extravagant feasts, a lord enhances both his own reputation and that of his retainer, and he lays upon his thane the obligation of future service. In the transaction of the gift, the object given – ring, armor, horse, or weapon – becomes the material reminder of the retainer’s obligation when war service or vengeance is required (it’s known as the law of ___________). Therefore, the lord is often referred to as the ring-giver. Reciprocal obligation on the part of both retainer and lord protected the individual from isolation. The loneliness of a ___________ life was greatly feared.
Defense of the lord in battle and revenge for injuries against either the warrior's lord or his
kinsman were the duties of a retainer. A warrior's paramount goal is the achievement of a lasting
________________________; immortality through ____________________.

The Anglo-Saxon warrior followed a strict code of __________________ and ______________.
Vengeance could be achieved by either blood or wergild. In Anglo-Saxon custom, if an Anglo-
Saxon killed someone, he had to pay a price for his deed or accept the fact that the victim's
relatives would seek revenge. Blood feuds were common, but it was also acceptable to establish
a price for compensation depending on the act and on the social status of the injured individual.

The Anglo-Saxon lord was expected to lead by example, to be the moral guardian of his people,
and to give generously to his retainers in return for their loyal service: hospitality, ______________,
mead, ______________, influence, ______________, jewelry, ______________, and armor were all
typical gifts. The favorite entertainment for a thane consisted of gathering in the ____________ hall
with the king and his other thanes, eating, drinking mead to excess, and listening to ____________
(poets) tell heroic epics.

Although many assume the Anglo-Saxons were barbaric, evidence from the recovery of the Sutton
Hoo in 1939, warfare was the order of the day, yet they lived luxurious lives.

V. The Tribal Culture
Each tribe had their own ____________. They built walled farms and wood-hut villages. The Anglo-
Saxons used ______________ and __________ tools, and grew crops. They also warred with
each other, and since war was always a possibility, life was unstable and often violent. Warriors
were loyal to the king and would fight to the death for him. Surrender was ______________.
These were oral cultures (there was no ______________ or recorded history). The Anglo-Saxons
were non-Christian; they were “pagans,” worshipping many gods.

VI. Women
The woman’s role was to supervise the ______________ and dyeing of clothes, ______________
the livestock, bake the ______________, and brew the ______________. Because you needed
fermented honey to make mead, women also partook in ______________. However, women
could own property and buy and sell goods.

VII. Religion
The religion of the Anglo-Saxons was dark and ______________. They often leaned upon Norse or
Scandinavian mythology and Odin, the god of death, poetry, and magic. Known as Woden to
Angles, he could help humans communicate with spirits. Thunor, Norse Thor, was the god of
thunder and lightning. The swastika was probably his sign since it is found on many Anglo-Saxon
 Graves. The Anglo-Saxons remained largely pagan until 597, when St. Augustine was sent from
Rome to convert England and assume his duties as the first Archbishop of Canterbury.

VIII. Beowulf
The only existing copy of the epic “____________” is thought to have been copied around 1000
A.D., but it concerns the earlier events of the 5th and 6th centuries. The poem is set in what is
now Sweden and Denmark, both areas from which the Angles, Saxons, and Jutes migrated. The
author of the epic is __________. Christian _______ captured the poem of the ________ in writing.