1. The first area of cuts the plan discusses are “Discretionary Spending Cuts.” In percentage terms, how big is discretionary spending relative to the total spending of the government. You may have to use an outside source to find this answer. What does this percentage indicate about the ability to solve total budget problems with this spending category?

2. Which two recommendations for discretionary spending cuts make the most sense to you? Indicate your reasoning for each one.

3. Which recommendation for discretionary spending cuts makes the least sense to you? Indicate your reasoning.

4. What are tax expenditures? Note: “Spending by another name” is not a sufficient answer.

5. What is the size of tax expenditures in the United States. Note, you may have to use an outside source.

6. Relative to Discretionary Spending, how big are tax expenditures? Do you think that tax expenditures are an important consideration for Fiscal Responsibility and Reform? Why?

7. Which Tax Reform recommendation makes the most sense to you? Indicate your reasoning.

8. Which Tax Reform recommendation makes the least sense to you? Indicate your reasoning.

9. What is the Social Security Trust Fund? Why do we have it?

10. Under business as usual, when will the Social Security Trust Fund be exhausted? What will happen to Social Security benefits then?

11. Which recommendation for Social Security makes the most sense to you? Indicate your reasoning.

12. Which recommendation for Social Security makes the least sense to you? Indicate your reasoning.