Topic II: What is the Food Problem?

1. What is food insecurity and who (2 groups) are most at risk of hunger? (2 pts.)
   **Answer**
   Food insecurity: people lack access to sufficient food for normal growth & development & to lead active/healthy lives/meet their daily nutritional requirements
   Groups most at risk of hunger (any 1 of the following):
   - Rural poor
   - Urban poor
   - Victims of catastrophes/disasters

2. While commodity/food prices have fallen by as much as 50% from record highs in June (2008), the financial crisis is expected to make the global food crisis worse. Why could (2 reasons) the financial crisis worsen the food crisis? (2 pts.)
   **Answer (any 2 of the following):**
   - Credit will dry up/farmers won’t be able to get credit for fertilizer/seed
   - Money for food aid will dry up/donors won’t meet their pledges for food aid
   - There will be less money to invest in agriculture/fund agricultural development projects

3. Why can’t (2 reasons) the Philippines and other countries in Asia produce enough rice to feed themselves? (2 pts.)
   **Answer (any 2 of the following):**
   - Farmland is spread over many islands, making rice production expensive/difficult
   - Philippines lacks river deltas, which provide an easy and abundant water source;
   - Rising oil prices has made rice more expensive to produce (increased cost of fertilizer, transportation)
   - Pest damage in Vietnam has wiped out many hectares
   - Government spending on agriculture, which spawned the Green Revolution, has slowed
   - Increasingly, farmland is being transformed into office parks and suburbs/agricultural loans lost
   - Increase in population/more mouths to feed
   - Exploding middle class/with rising incomes, people are eating more rice

4. What is responsible for the rapid depletion of India’s aquifers and what is the crisis facing Northern China and? (2 pts.)
   **Answers (both of the following)**
   - India—withdrawal of water for agriculture/irrigation
   - Northern China—a drought, worst drought in one half a century/wasteful way farmers use water

5. Why is AIDS (in Africa) not just a health crisis? (2 pts.)
   **Answer: (any 1 of the following)**
   AIDS impacts every sector, affects food security, people with AIDS loose their ability to deal with their basic needs, steals the youngest/most able bodied, loss of working adults has a major impact on agricultural productivity

6. What ruling did the WTO's appeals panel recently make (about cotton) and what does it require the US to do? (2 pts.)
   **Answer (both of the following)**
   - Ruling:
     - Most of the US’s annual subsidies to cotton producers/exporters are illegal under current trade rules
   - US must:
     - End its subsidies (or Brazil will have the right to impose trade sanctions against the US)

7. According to a new UN report, how (2 ways) is global warming predicted to impact Africa by 2080? (2 pts.)
   **Answer (any 2 of the following):**
   - Decline in food production
   - Loss of natural habitat
   - Rising sea levels will destroy coastal infrastructure, due to flooding