Chapter 3: Creating Anglo-America, 1660-1750
Potential Essay Questions

1. Between 1650 and 1750 colonial North America encountered a general crisis. Clearly define the colonial crisis and discuss how expansion played a role in creating the crisis. Be sure to include in your discussion the expansion of other empires besides just the British empire.

2. The colonial crisis was made up of many smaller local conflicts. A common denominator among these conflicts was that the aggrieved groups seized on the language of freedom to advance their goals. Analyze how various groups used the language of freedom and how successful their arguments were in achieving their goals. What were the different ways “freedom” was defined?

3. William Penn called his colony a “holy experiment.” Chronicle the development of Pennsylvania and emphasize the advantages that the colony offered. What liberties were guaranteed and to whom?

4. The Glorious Revolution solidified the notion that liberty was a birthright of the Englishman. Explain why the Glorious Revolution achieved this idea and how it subsequently affected the colonies. Did all of the colonists react to the Glorious Revolution the same? If there were differences, what were they? How was the language of liberty used?

5. “Liberty of conscience,” wrote a German newcomer in 1739, was the “chief virtue” of British North America, “and on this score I do not repent my immigration.” Explain what he meant by that remark. What did immigrants find attractive about the British colonies? What liberties and freedoms were available to the newcomers? You might remark on the German immigrant’s Voices of Freedom piece too, as it echoes this sentiment.

6. North America at mid-century was home to a remarkable diversity of people and different kinds of social organization. In a thoughtful essay, defend this statement, touching on each of the colonies, the various groups of people living in those colonies, and the freedoms and liberties extend to them.

7. By the 1750s, North American colonists possessed a dual identity; they were both British in their attempts at Anglicization and also distinctly American. What factors contributed to this dual identity? What reinforced the British identity? What reinforced the American identity? Be sure to discuss political, cultural, social, and economic aspects of society.

8. Early British North America witnessed the use of various labor systems. Fully describe and compare those systems, and analyze why slavery was slow to come to British North America. What liberties were extended to those whose labor was not free?

9. The line between slavery and freedom was more permeable in the seventeenth century than it would become later. Explain how slavery was treated in the seventeenth century by discussing the law, customs, and liberties extended to slaves. What had to happen for the line between slavery and freedom harden?