PART I

1. Why did Spain send explorers to the New World?
2. In what ways did the Aztecs alienate their neighbors?
3. How did Cortes use other groups’ distrust of the Aztecs to his own advantage? Discuss the merits and risks of this military strategy.

PART II

1. What perils (dangers) would explorers have faced on sea and land?
2. What motivated Cortes and other explorers to make dangerous and financially risky voyages to the New World?
3. What did Montezuma hope to accomplish by sending gifts to the Spanish?
4. Why was his choice of gifts a fatal error?
5. Discuss the Spanish soldiers’ reaction to the gifts.