

## **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: SOCIAL PROBLEMS AND THE MEANING OF SOCIAL VALUES**

1) “I believe we tend to value materialism, the present or the immediate future, physical beauty, individualism, the free market and the family. Some would say we value equality, education, creativity, and freedom of thought, but I am less certain that these are important to many of us...”

a) Why do you think the author says this? Do you agree? If so what examples can you think of to support this idea? If not, why not?

b) What are the values of the US? What about your personal values? Conflict?

2) What makes social problems relative? Choose an issue that you consider to be a “social problem” and discuss what ways it might be relative. Are there other people who would consider this problem in a different light or not consider it a problem at all?

3) What are the causes of social problems? Choose a social problem and ask yourself, what causes it, then what causes that condition, and so on? What does this exercise demonstrate?

4) Can social problems be solved? What does the author say? How does he support it?