Questions for *Food, Inc.*

These questions are not to be turned in, but are questions which may appear on the next test.

1. What imagery is used to sell food in America during the twenty-first century?

2. How many different products does the average American supermarket sell?

3. According to this film, how would one characterize the typical producer of food in America?

4. What commercial development led to the emergence of the industrial food system?

5. What role did McDonald’s Restaurants play in this trend in food production?

6. In 1970 what percentage of the meat packing industry was dominated by the five largest packers?

7. What is the percentage today controlled by the four largest meat packers?

8. What was Tyson’s response to the film makers visiting the buildings where chickens are housed?

9. What were conditions like in the henhouse in the one chicken farm that allowed filming?

10. What role do antibiotics play in the mass production of chickens

11. How do large companies such as Tysons or Perdue keep their independent producers under control?

12. What percentage of America’s farmland is used to produce corn?

13. How does government policy regarding corn produce that percentage of land use?

14. How do corn product enter into the production of food? What is the primary corn product used?

15. How much meat does the average American eat each year?

16. Why is corn used in the feeding of dairy cows? What biological problem does that produce? Why?

17. Why does *e. coli* (escherichia coli) bacteria form in the stomachs of dairy cows?

18. What is the danger of *e. coli*? Explain the process?

19. How do large companies influence the federal agencies that are supposed to regulate them?

20. How many food safety inspections did the FDA conduct in 1972? How many in 2006?

21. How many slaughterhouses were there in the U.S. during the 1970s? How many are there now?
22. Who is Barbara Kowalcyk? Why is she on Capitol Hill? What event resulted in this activity?

23. Why doesn’t the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) shut down unsanitary food processors?

24. What is the food industry’s usual response to pressures to produce safer foods?

25. Why are unhealthful foods often cheaper than healthy foods?

26. What is the best economic predictor of obesity according to this film?

27. What three tastes does the food industry focus upon?

28. What ratio of adult Americans will develop Type 2 Diabetes? What is the rate among minorities?

29. What kind of worker does the largest slaughterhouse in America primarily employ? Why?

30. How do these workers know that the slaughterhouses are hiring their category of employee?

31. Why are meat packing workers being arrested? Why are their employers not being arrested?

32. How many people can the average farmer feed today? What was the ratio 110 years ago?

33. What happened that has enabled large corporations to patent the basic elements of biological life?

34. What percentage of soy bean producers use Monsanto’s patented seed?

35. What was that percentage twelve years earlier?

36. What happens to the farmer who uses a patented seed without the patent holders’ permission?

37. How do the patent holders find out a farmer is using their seeds without authorization?

38. How do farmers unintentially use patented seeds? What is the reaction of the patent holder to this?

39. How does the food industry influence both the Supreme Court and presidential administrations?

40. Why do industry advocates oppose labeling packaged products with regards to food processing?

41. What have food producers done to silence critics? What happened to Oprah Winfrey?

43. What brought an end to the use of synthetic growth hormones in the meat industry?

44. Why do we need changes at the level of governmental policy regarding the food industry?

45. How can the American people respond to the practices of the food industry?