1. Evaluate the major revenue sources for states.
2. Which state revenue sources are most problematic, politically?
3. What are some unique features of Washington's revenue system?
4. What is the McCleary decision? What did the Washington State Supreme Court say was problematic about the state's K-12 funding system?
5. Discuss the various types of direct primaries. How has Washington's primary elections changed over the last decade?
6. How has Washington's primary elections changed over the last decade?
7. What evidence is there that Washington is a solidly Democratic state in statewide elections? Present an argument about why the Republican Party may be competitive in Washington, despite apparent Democratic dominance.
8. What do lobbyists do? According to the Donovan et al book, what are some of the most influential interest group lobbies in state politics?
9. What is the nature of inter-party competition in the US states, and in Washington over the last few decades?
10. How might Washington's campaign finance regulations affect the role that parties play in state elections?
11. What is/was the legislative professionalism movement? How professionalized is Washington's legislature compared to other states?
12. What are some consequences of having a more professionalized state legislature?
13. Who is the typical state legislator? How is the composition of the Washington legislature different than that of other states?
14. What are the formal, institutional powers of governors? How do they vary across the states? What are informal powers of governors? How do the formal powers of Washington's governors compare to governors in other states?
15. Discuss the different ways that judges are selected in the US States. How are judges selected in Washington? What are the pros and cons of selecting judges through public elections? What difference does selection method make?
16. How have states limited how candidates for judicial office may campaign? (or, what is the 'announce' clause?). How has the US Supreme Court treated these rules about judicial campaigns?
17. What are the institutions of direct democracy? Why is direct democracy primarily a western phenomena? What were the early Progressive Era arguments in favor of direct democracy?
18. How has the use of ballot initiatives changed over the last century? Has direct democracy remained true to its Progressive Era roots?
19. How does state budget-making differ from the national budget process? Do similar constraints exist at the national level?
20. What are the standard sources of revenue available for the American states? Which taxes might voters be most likely to revolt against?
21. Why are states seeking new revenue sources? Discuss some "innovative" revenue sources that states are now beginning to use more frequently.
Concepts / short answer (see text & lecture):

Progressive era
Populist era
differences in initiative process across states
constitutional vs. statutory initiatives
direct democracy and turnout
criticisms of direct democracy
billionaire pluralism
tax revolt
Types of primary elections
top two primary
trends in inter-party competition
trends in representation of women in state legislatures
why more women legislators in some states?
legislative professionalism
term limits on legislators (when adopted, use in Washington?)
"four jobs" of governors
formal powers of governors
structure of a state court system
judicial selection methods
merit plan of judicial selection
evaluate the _____ tax
which state has the most regressive tax structure? why?