

## HANDOUT

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

### Iran's Islamic Republic

#### Part A: History of Iran

1. When did Persia become Iran? How did the modern state of Iran with its current political system come to exist?

2. Identify (define and explain the significance of) the following events in U.S.-Iran relations.

1979 Revolution –

Hostage Crisis –

Iran-Iraq War –

Iran-Contra scandal –

U.S.S. Vincennes –

U.S. trade embargo –

“axis of evil” –

#### Part B: The Government of Iran

1. Who was the first Supreme Leader? Who is the current Supreme Leader? How is he chosen? What powers does the Supreme Leader have?

2. Who is the current President? What powers does he have? How is the president's power limited in Iran?

3. Who controls the military in Iran? How is this unique?
4. Identify the selection, membership and major responsibilities of the following institutions.

Majlis (parliament) –

Guardian Council –

Assembly of Experts –

Expediency Council –

5. In what important ways does the Iranian judicial system differ from that in the U.S.?

### **Part C: Iranian Society**

1. Describe Iran's population in terms of the following characteristics.

ethnic groups -

languages spoken -

age -

education / literacy -

2. What is Iran's national religion? What are the main tenets and requirements of this religion?

3. Describe the economy of Iran. What is the basis of Iran's economy? With what countries does Iran mostly trade? What is the standard of living in Iran?

**Part D: Iran's Nuclear Program**

1. What is the status of Iran's nuclear program? What evidence exists that Iran may be able to produce nuclear weapons soon?
2. Why does Iran claim to need nuclear plants? Analyze Iran's apparent nuclear strategy.
3. What has the role and response of the U.S. been with regard to the development of Iran's nuclear capabilities? European nations? Russia and China?
4. What impact is the overthrow of Saddam Hussein's regime in Iraq likely to have on U.S. efforts to stop Iran from becoming a nuclear power?