"Death of a Disease:
Discussion Questions

1. What are the epidemiological features of smallpox that rendered it amenable to eradication?

2. What is meant by eradication? What other diseases have been eradicated through the intent of man?

3. What is the mode of spread of smallpox?

4. What is meant by surveillance and containment?

5. What are the climatic conditions that inhibit spread of smallpox?

6. Why are there mild cases of smallpox in Ethiopia?

7. What were the major technological advances that lead to the control or eradication of smallpox?

8. Elimination of vaccination in the U.S. for smallpox occurred before the disease was eradicated. What was the basis for this policy decision?

9. Why was the background level of herd immunity not the controlling factor in smallpox eradication programs?

10. Why was the problem of smallpox in India so much different than that in Africa?
11. What kinds of objections among the populace impeded vaccination programs in India?

12. Why was there skepticism over worldwide smallpox eradication?

13. When was smallpox officially judged to be eradicated?

14. Can other infectious disease be eradicated? Which ones and on what basis?