Questions for Section 3E: Value and Price

1. What assumptions about s/v, c/v, and the rate of profit in particular industries lead to the conclusion that commodities do not exchange at ratios determined by their values?

2. How does competition among capitalists lead prices to depart from values?

3. What is the "transformation problem?"

4. How does Marx solve the transformation problem? What are the main features of that solution?

5. What is the traditional criticism of Marx's solution to the transformation problem?

6. What is the Bortkiewicz-type solution to the transformation problem? What are the main features of that solution?

7. Under what conditions do all the features of Marx's solution to the transformation problem also hold in the Bortkiewicz-type solution?

8. In the Bortkiewicz-type solution to the transformation problem, is it possible to argue that prices of production redistribute a pre-existing total quantity of surplus value among capitalists in the various industries?

9. Is there a good case for the validity and usefulness of the Marxian theory of value and surplus value if one accepts the Bortkiewicz-type solution to the transformation problem?

10. What assumptions are made in the New Solution to the transformation problem that are different from the assumptions made in the Bortkiewicz-type solution?

11. What are the main features of the New Solution to the transformation problem?

12. What is the "New Interpretation of Marxian value theory," which evolved from the New Solution to the transformation problem?

13. What is your evaluation of the New Solution and the New Interpretation?