*The Crucible* – Test Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Directions:** Answer each of the following questions. Each response should be written in a well-written paragraph of 8-10 sentences each. Please write your responses **ON YOUR OWN PAPER**.

Use this page for brainstorming/prewriting/outlining only.

1. A crucible is “a ceramic or metal container in which metals or other substances can be melted or subjected to very high temperatures.” A crucible can also be defined as “a severe test or

trial.” Considering these definitions, explain the meaning of the title of Arthur Miller’s play.

2. Despite the Puritan background of the citizens of Salem, it seems as though almost every character tells a lie at one time or another. Identify the lies that any 2 characters tell, explaining the situation and reason for the lies. In your (modern, yet humble) opinion, explain why the dishonesty was justified or not.

3. In your (modern, yet humble) opinion, which characters are most to blame for the deaths of so many innocent people in Salem, Massachusetts in 1692? Choose at least 2 characters and give specific examples from the play to support your response.

4. Read the “Historical Context: The Red Scare and McCarthy Trials.” In your own words, explain

how this time period repeated the tragic mistakes made during the Salem Witch Trials.