Name \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

*The Crucible* – Analysis Questions on the Play as a Whole

1. *The Crucible* starts on an ominous note, with Samuel Parris in a state of frantic worry. From the very beginning the atmosphere of the play is tense and sinister. Nevertheless, the playwright succeeds in raising the level of tension ever higher throughout the four acts of the drama. Analyze and evaluate the role of suspense in the play.
2. A static character is one portrayed as relatively fixed and unchanging throughout a work; he or she does not change significantly. A dynamic character, on the other hand, changes significantly as a result of events, conflicts, or other forces. Thomas Putnam, Rebecca Nurse, Tituba, Deputy Governor Danforth, and Abigail Williams are among the static character in the play. In what ways might the following characters be regarded as dynamic:
   1. John Proctor
   2. Elizabeth Proctor
   3. Giles Corey
   4. Mary Warren
   5. John Hale
3. Among the many thematic subjects explored in *The Crucible* are guilt, hypocrisy, the nature of authority, courage, justice, and hysteria. What do you think is the single most important subject of the play? Support your choice with specific reasons and references to the text.
4. Much of the force of the play derives from irony, or a pointed discrepancy between appearance and reality. Identify and comment on three outstanding uses of irony in the play that you find especially effective.
   1. .
   2. .
   3. .
5. In some ways Deputy Governor Danforth is the character most difficult to understand. How would you define his relationship to Samuel Parris and Judge Hathorne (as a foil)?

What is Danforth’s basic predicament?

Do you sympathize somewhat with this predicament, or in the end is Danforth held to a strict standard of justice and honor only to be found wanting? Explain your reaction to Danforth using examples from the text that influenced your point of view.