***Evolution: Possible Free-Response Questions***

**1.** **Describe** the modern theory of biological evolution and **discuss** how it is supported by evidence from each of the following areas using specific examples from Neil Shubin’s *Your Inner Fish*:

**(a)** Fossil record

**(b)** Molecular biology

**(c)** Comparative anatomy

**(d)** Comparative embryology

**2.** On the archipelago of the Galapagos Islands, which most geologists believe to be of volcanic origin without ever having had any land connection with the west coast of South America, Darwin discovered a group of small finches. These birds have since been classified into more than a dozen species. These birds have differences, particularly in their adaptations for food-getting. It is believed that all these species are

descendants of a single species which migrated from the mainland. On the mainland there has never been more than a single species even though the rate of mutations is thought to be the same in both locations.

**(a) Explain** how each of the following could have played a role in the development of the many species of Galapagos finches:

**-** the bottleneck effect

**-** genetic drift

- reproductive isolation

**-** geographic isolation

**(b)** **Explain** why speciation has not occurred at the same rate on the mainland as it has on the islands?

**3.** Hardy-Weinberg

**4. Discuss** three things Charles Darwin never knew.