Reading questions for “The Global Glass Ceiling” 
By Isobel Coleman

After reading the above-mentioned article found in a fairly recent issue of Foreign Affairs, you should be able to answer the following questions. The material from this reading will be included on the next test.

1. What does Ms. Coleman write about the gains made by woman when they are given educations and can earn and control their income?

2. What world regions show the most significant gender gaps in connection with access to educational and job opportunities?

3. Among all of those who would make up the majority of the world’s most impoverished bottom two billion people, what unfortunate common denominator do we find?

4. Does Ms. Coleman believe the private sector or government agencies are more effective and promoting and encouraging gender equality?

5. What might really be needed for corporations to significantly shift their policies to encourage the empowering of women?

6. When women are disempowered, want are some of the obvious negative consequences?

7. How was the concept of corporations wrestling with “going green” used as a comparison with companies embracing policies that further the cause of female empowerment?

8. How was GE dragged into the difficult situation of being held responsible for preventing female feticide?

9. What significant hurdle did GE have to overcome in order to maintain it’s dominance of a very lucrative ultrasound market?

10. What simple gender related reason is given as one reason why multinational corporations have dragged their feet when it comes to developing cultural sensitivities in emerging markets?

11. Is their any evidence that significant investment from the private sector that nurtures proactive women empowerment policies is on the rise?

12. What major sport apparel company has been involved with both accusations of treating women in the workplace poorly and also becoming more proactive in women’s empowerment.

13. What was the purpose of “The Girl Effect”? See if you can find it on-line.
14. How has Goldman Sachs entered the realm of advocating for female empowerment?

15. What is the business rationale behind Goldman Sachs programs?

16. What parts of the world are targeted for “The 10,000 Woman program?”

17. Why would female entrepreneurs in developing nations, be increasingly important sales channels in places that are difficult for traditional trucking and shipping?

18. Who is Hindustan Unilever and how have they contributed to improving business opportunities for rural woman?

19. Is there proof that their efforts are paying off?

20. What reasons do Wal-Mart and Carrefour have for developing relationships with local producers in their purchasing of food and other products?

21. Where around the planet is there evidence that Wal-Mart is involved with the development of literacy and workplace skills for females?

22. What great irony involving Wal-Mart is pointed out, relative the main point of this article?

23. How significant would it be, in terms of US dollars, if Wal-Mart truly encouraged business relationships with women-owned suppliers and other related companies?

24. What has the US military done in the Middle East, which encouraged female economic empowerment?

25. How has the World Bank been involved in female economic empowerment?

26. Does the “Gender Action Plan” seem to be a realistic vehicle of change?

27. Provide examples of the parts of the Middle East slowly bending to the pressures of greater female economic and educational empowerment.

28. What part of “The Five-Point Plan” do you feel was the strongest and most likely to encourage long term change? What part of the plan was the weakest? Why?

29. How did Ms. Coleman connect Nigeria and substantial Western investments relative to the role of women in developing countries?