Item 18.A: Questions for Activity 4 (Documents 18.4–18.7)

Issue #1: The technology gap between rural and urban China

Read "Bridge over the Digital Divide" (18.4) and check online sources, such as www.chinatoday.com, for the most recent statistics and information pertinent to this issue. Then be prepared to report:

- What percentage of China's urban population has access to the Internet?
- What percentage of China's rural population has access to the Internet?
- Beyond entertainment value, why might it be important to improve computer and Internet access in rural areas from the government's point of view? As a group, make a list of reasons.
- Brainstorm among your team ways in which Internet access in the countryside may be improved.
- In your statement, contrast the availability of the Internet in rural and urban China. Also, offer recommendations for increasing Internet access to rural areas.

Issue #2: The Growth of Chinese Cities

Read "Too Big, Too Fast" (Document 18.5), check online sources, and read, if possible, "The Overnight City," chapter 4 in Peter Hessler's book *Oracle Bones: A Journey Between China's Past and Present,* to broaden your understanding of the issue. Then be prepared to report:

- Where Shenzhen is located on a political map of China.
- Why Shenzhen's population growth is alarming, even by Chinese standards.
- What the ratio of migrant to local residents is.
- **S**pecific problems population growth is creating for cities such as Shenzhen.
- Brainstorm among team members ways in which the growth of Chinese cities may be controlled.
- Prepare your statement using Shenzhen as an example to portray problems generated by the growth of cities in China. Also, offer recommendations for helping to control the growth of large cities such as Shenzhen.

Issue #3: Migrant and rural health care

Read "Bigger Net, Better Net" (Document 18.6) and "The Price of Health" (Document 18.7). Find out about the "barefoot doctors" of the 1950s and 1960s. Check online sources for the most recent developments. Then be prepared to report:

- Using a specific person as an example, portray the growing difficulties migrant workers have in obtaining adequate health care. Be sure to point out how the changing economic situation has contributed to this difficulty.

- Offer three pieces of evidence from this source—in the form of a direct quote, a statistic, or an example—that China's economic transition away from socialism has led to setbacks for some people.

- Might health care in China be regarded as a national problem, rather than just one facing rural areas or migrants? Give evidence from the readings.

- Brainstorm among team members ways in which health care access for migrant workers might be improved.

- Prepare a statement that portrays the difficulties various people face in China's current health care system using examples from the readings. Also offer recommendations for improving health care access and quality: what should be done next?