Directions: *As you read “Class in America: Shadowy Lines That Still Divide,” answer the questions below. Cite information from the article in your answers when appropriate*.

1. In what areas has class come to play a greater role in American life over the past 30 years?
2. How are the “ranks of the elite” different today than in the past?
3. What has “replaced the old system of inherited privilege”? Why is this a paradox?
4. According to the poll, what do Americans believe will help them attain a higher status?
5. The article states “one difficulty in talking about class is that the word means different things to different people.” What are some of the things it means, according to the article?
6. How does the article use an analogy of a hand of cards to explain how to think of a person’s position in society?
7. What do the new studies of mobility say?
8. The article asks, “Why does it appear that class is fading as a force in American life?” How does it answer that question?
9. How does class relate to political alignment and issues today?
10. How does class relate to religious affiliation today?
11. How does class relate to race today?
12. How does educational level come into play when discussing class?
13. How are class differences in health widening?
14. How does family structure differ along class lines?
15. The article ends with a paragraph about optimism. In your own words, what does that paragraph mean? How does optimism relate to the concept of class and social mobility?