Reading Assignment
“A taste of empire” by James Walvin and
“The British Empire” by Max Beloff

Please answer each question with a short analytical essay. A short essay is approximately 2 to 4 paragraphs. You must support your conclusions with information pulled from the reading to properly answer each question. The essay must be typed on a word-processor, on white paper, font 11 pt Ariel or similar, 1 inch margins, name/ date/reading/class as the top header.

Read the following articles:

The British empire. Max Beloff. History Today, Feb 1996 v46 n2 p13(8)

Answer the Following Questions:

1. How does Walvin illustrate that “Africa held the key” to the success of British Imperialism?

2. How did tea, sugar, and tobacco become pervasive and important to English Society and what positive influences (traditions) did the English provide in return?

3. What does Beloff mean when he states, “We have only to compare what we know of Roman Britain with what we know of the British Raj in India?” How does Walvin’s article illustrate Beloff’s assertion?

4. What does Beloff imply (mean) when in his statement, “we tend to think of the British empire… as somehow artificial, based upon a transitory period of technological and hence military preponderance?”

5. Compare both authors’ views on British Imperialism and the British Empire. Are the views contradictory or complimentary?