Understanding SOHO Routers

Questions:

1. What differentiates a SOHO router from an Enterprise Router?

   A SOHO router acts as a switch and a router, and also often a firewall inside and VPN access.

2. When you're dealing with an ISP, why would you want a static IP address?

   You need a static IP any time you are trying to forward certain packets from the Internet to certain computers or devices on your home network. It allows you to host things like a web or file server, and keeps the same IP address for incoming requests even if the server is restarted.

3. What functions (services) do you normally find in a SOHO router?

   DHCP, DNS, Port Forwarding

4. What does a firewall do?

   Firewalls prevent outside access to ports. Blocking them also prevents their use by internal applications and services.

5. With a SOHO router, why would redundancy be desirable?

   If a port fails, it is still possible to have Internet access.

6. What is a DMZ? Why would a small company want one?

   A DMZ (Demilitarized Zone) is a small network inserted as a "neutral zone" between a company's private network and the outside public network. A small company might want one to give wireless access to customers.

7. In a small office, what would be the disadvantage of using enterprise level routers?

   Enterprise level routers are more expensive. An advantage is that they are easier to administer with better interfaces than home routers.