

Name: _____ Date: _____

Prisms of Pop: Probing the Power of 12th Grade Trends

Critical semiotics meets modern media; students deconstruct hidden cultural hegemonies and the subversive power of digital niche-marketing beyond mere screen time.

1. In the context of 'Preppy-Core' or 'Old Money' aesthetics on social media, how would a sociologist use narrative analysis to explain the trend's surge among Gen Z?

- A. It represents a functionalist shift toward minimalist textile production.
- B. It serves as an aspirational narrative of stability amidst global economic volatility.
- C. It is a biological reaction to high-contrast digital interfaces.
- D. It is a rejection of all historical fashion references in favor of futurism.

2. The 'Parasocial Relationship' between streamers and their audience is considered an aspect of Audience Reception analysis because it studies how individuals interpret and form bonds with media figures.

- A. True
- B. False

3. When film critics analyze the recurring 'Multiverse' trope as a reflection of the paralyzing abundance of choice in the digital age, they are employing _____.

- A. Bio-physical determinism
- B. Societal reflection
- C. Quantitative distribution
- D. Technological nihilism

4. The intentional use of 'Lo-Fi' aesthetics in high-budget music videos—characterized by grain and VHS glitches—functions symbolically as a critique of what?

- A. The lack of funding in the modern music industry
- B. The hyper-polished, artificial perfection of AI-generated content
- C. The physiological limitations of the human eye
- D. The irrelevance of visual media in the streaming era

5. The 'Death of the Author' theory suggests that the meaning of a work like a cryptic Childish Gambino video is determined by _____ rather than the creator's intent.

- A. The record label's CEO
- B. The financial budget
- C. The audience's interpretation
- D. The software used for editing

6. Decolonizing pop culture analysis requires examining how Western media tropes may marginalize Indigenous or Global South perspectives.

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- A. True
- B. False

7. In the analysis of 'Cottagecore,' what is the primary societal reflection being identified by cultural critics?

- A. An urgent need to increase agricultural exports
- B. A tech-wear motivated move toward urban living
- C. An escapist response to urban burnout and hyper-digitalization
- D. A trend purely dictated by the price of wool

8. The widespread use of 'Liminal Space' imagery (empty malls, sterile hallways) in internet horror is a symbolic representation of _____.

- A. The benefits of commercial architecture
- B. Existential dread and the transition between states
- C. The efficiency of modern cleaning services
- D. The rise of online shopping

9. Intertextuality refers to the way a piece of pop culture (like a meme format) gains meaning through its relationship and references to other cultural texts.

- A. True
- B. False

10. Baudrillard's concept of 'Hyperreality'—where the simulation becomes more real than reality—is best applied to which pop culture phenomenon?

- A. The growth of community gardens
- B. The use of physical maps for hiking
- C. The creation of AI 'influencers' who attend real-world fashion weeks
- D. A band performing an acoustic set without microphones