

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Beyond the Western Canon? The Advanced World Literature Synthesis for College Scholars

Challenge your scholars to synthesize postcolonial theory and aesthetic movements across 10 rigorous questions spanning three continents and four centuries of thought.

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**1. In Wole Soyinka's 'Death and the King's Horseman', the ritual suicide of Elesin is interrupted by British colonial authorities. Which philosophical conflict most accurately characterizes this climax?**

**Answer:** B) The ontological rupture between Yoruba metaphysical continuity and Western linear time

Soyinka argues in his preface that the play is not merely a 'clash of cultures' but a transition of the soul; the British intervention breaks the communal transition between the world of the living, the dead, and the unborn.

**2. The concept of 'Negritude,' which sought to reclaim African value systems from colonial denigration, was primarily developed by Aimé Césaire and the future president of Senegal, \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** B) Léopold Sédar Senghor

Léopold Sédar Senghor was a poet and theorist who, alongside Césaire, founded the Negritude movement in Paris during the 1930s.

**3. True or False: In Lu Xun's 'A Madman's Diary,' the protagonist's paranoia regarding 'cannibalism' serves as a figurative critique of traditional Confucian social structures.**

**Answer:** A) True

Lu Xun used the 'madman' as a vehicle to suggest that the history of Chinese feudalism was a history of people 'eating' each other through oppressive hierarchy.

**4. Borges' 'The Garden of Forking Paths' serves as a precursor to postmodern literature by utilizing which specific structural device?**

**Answer:** B) The labyrinthine metaphor for infinite, simultaneous timelines

Borges anticipates many-worlds interpretation and hypertext, treating the book as a maze where all possible outcomes of an event occur at once.

**5. The 16th-century Chinese novel 'Journey to the West' is famously attributed to \_\_\_\_\_ and functions as an allegory for the quest for spiritual enlightenment.**

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**Answer:** C) Wu Cheng'en

Wu Cheng'en is the widely accepted author of this Ming Dynasty classic, which chronicles Xuanzang's pilgrimage to India.

**6. True or False: Clarice Lispector's 'The Hour of the Star' primarily focuses on the external political revolution in Brazil during the 1970s.**

**Answer:** B) False

While Lispector lived through political upheaval, her work is known for its intense introspection, existentialism, and 'interior' stream of consciousness rather than overt political journalism.

**7. Which Middle Eastern author utilized the framing device of 'The Thousand and One Nights' to critique modern socio-political stagnation in the novel 'Arabian Nights and Days'?**

**Answer:** C) Naguib Mahfouz

Mahfouz wrote this as a sequel to the original folktales, using the established characters to explore themes of corruption, justice, and fate.

**8. In the context of the 'Black Atlantic,' scholar Paul Gilroy analyzes how the \_\_\_\_\_ functioned as a mobile, micro-cultural space for the exchange of ideas between Africa, Europe, and the Americas.**

**Answer:** A) Slave ship

Gilroy uses the image of the ship to represent a 'chronotope'—a unit of time and space that reflects the transnational nature of Black identity and literature.

**9. Mahasweta Devi's 'Breast-Giver' intentionally subverts the trope of the 'nurturing mother' to offer a subaltern critique of which system?**

**Answer:** B) The commodification of the female body under nationalist and patriarchal frameworks

Devi creates a sharp allegory where the protagonist's body is physically consumed by the very class and gender structures she serves as a professional wet-nurse.

**10. True or False: The Epic of Gilgamesh, while ancient, is categorized as World Literature primarily because it has influenced the narrative structures of later epics like the Odyssey and the Aeneid.**

**Answer:** A) True

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Gilgamesh established foundational motifs such as the Hero's Journey, the quest for immortality, and the civilizing influence of the city that echo throughout Western and Near-Eastern literature.