

Name: _____ Date: _____

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.

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?

- A. The triumph of secular individualism over religious fundamentalism
- B. The ontological rupture between Yoruba metaphysical continuity and Western linear time
- C. A Marxist critique of the feudal obligations inherent in the Oyo Empire
- D. The inherent biological drive for self-preservation versus social conditioning

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, _____.

- A. Frantz Fanon
- B. Léopold Sédar Senghor
- C. Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o
- D. Patrice Lumumba

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.

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. The unreliable first-person narrator of a confession
- B. The labyrinthine metaphor for infinite, simultaneous timelines
- C. The inclusion of authentic historical photographs to blur fiction and reality
- D. Stream of consciousness echoing Joyce's Victorian London

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.

- A. Cao Xueqin
- B. Luo Guanzhong
- C. Wu Cheng'en
- D. Li Bai

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

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- A. True
- B. False

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'?

- A. Nawal El Saadawi
- B. Tayeb Salih
- C. Naguib Mahfouz
- D. Adonis

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.

- A. Slave ship
- B. Printing press
- C. Church
- D. Trading post

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

- A. The romanticization of the rural landscape in Bengali poetry
- B. The commodification of the female body under nationalist and patriarchal frameworks
- C. The shift from polytheism to monotheism in modern India
- D. The impact of the Green Revolution on agricultural labor

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.

- A. True
- B. False