

Name: _____ Date: _____

Answer Key: Why is Your Wardrobe Political? Senior Pop Culture Pulse

Deconstruct the semiotics of resistance in luxury and street style to analyze how aesthetic choices mirror shifting power structures in modern society.

1. Which 1970s subculture utilized 'bricolage'—the repurposing of everyday objects like safety pins and bin liners into fashion—as a semiotic challenge to mainstream consumerism?

Answer: C) The Punks

Punk fashion, spearheaded by figures like Vivienne Westwood, used 'bricolage' to strip objects of their original meaning and use them as symbols of social alienation and rebellion.

2. The 'Peacock Revolution' of the 1960s refers to a movement where menswear transitioned from conservative tailoring to bold colors and flamboyant patterns, mirroring shifts in gender norms.

Answer: A) True

The Peacock Revolution saw men adopting more expressive, traditionally 'feminine' aesthetics, reflecting the era's broader questioning of rigid gender roles.

3. In the context of 1990s 'Heroin Chic' photography, which aesthetic style was criticized for glamourising nihilism and addiction through waif-ish models and dark lighting?

Answer: B) Grunge

Grunge fashion and its associated 'Heroin Chic' photography reflected the disillusionment and anti-commercialist sentiment of Gen X while sparking intense ethical debate.

4. How did the 1920s 'Flapper' aesthetic function as a form of social commentary during the Jazz Age?

Answer: B) By adopting androgynous forms to signal female liberation and mobility

The drop-waist, short-hair 'Garçonne' look rejected the restrictive corsetry of the Victorian era, symbolizing the new-found social and physical freedom of women.

5. The concept of 'Camp'—as defined by Susan Sontag—refers to the deliberate use of artifice and exaggeration, often seen in Met Gala themes and drag culture.

Answer: A) True

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Camp is an aesthetic sensibility that values irony and theatricality, serving as a powerful tool for marginalized communities to subvert traditional notions of 'high art'.

6. The 1947 'New Look' by Christian Dior, characterized by cinched waists and full skirts, was a reaction against _____ during World War II.

Answer: C) Wartime austerity and rationing

After years of fabric rationing and military-style utility wear, Dior's use of voluminous fabric was a nostalgic return to opulence and traditional femininity.

7. Which filmmaker is best known for 'The Male Gaze' theory, which argues that cinema often frames women as objects of desire rather than subjects with agency?

Answer: B) Laura Mulvey

In her 1975 essay, Mulvey used psychoanalytic theory to explain how Hollywood film structures reinforce patriarchal power through camera work and narrative focus.

8. The term 'Hyperreality,' coined by Jean Baudrillard, suggests that in digital pop culture, the simulation (like a filtered photo or CGI influencer) becomes more 'real' than reality.

Answer: A) True

Hyperreality is a key concept in 12th-grade media studies, explaining how technology blurs the line between the original and the representation.

9. The 'Riot Grrrl' movement of the 1990s combined underground punk music with DIY zines to address issues of _____ and sexual violence.

Answer: B) Systemic patriarchy

Riot Grrrl was a seminal feminist movement that used raw expression and grassroots media to challenge sexism in the music industry and society.

10. In the 21st century, the 'Dark Academia' aesthetic primarily draws its visual and thematic inspiration from which literary and cultural source?

Answer: C) Eurocentric university life and Gothic literature

Dark Academia romanticizes higher education and the classics, often reflecting a longing for traditional learning and intellectualism amidst the digital age.