

Name: _____ Date: _____

The Invisible Script: Advanced Pop Culture Deconstruction for College

Critical theorists examine how the 'Hauntology' of vaporwave and the 'Parasocial Paradox' in digital spaces dictate modern societal behavior and identity construction.

1. Which theoretical framework best explains the 'Hauntology' trend in niche internet genres like Vaporwave, where artists remix 1980s elevator music and corporate jingles?

- A. Mark Fisher's concept of 'the slow cancellation of the future' and capitalist nostalgia
- B. Structural functionalist views on the necessity of background noise in urban environments
- C. The Great Man Theory applied to 21st-century synthesized sound production
- D. The Behaviorist model of Pavlovian responses to corporate branding cues

2. In the context of Jean Baudrillard's 'Hyperreality,' a high-fidelity video game world that becomes more significant to a user than their physical environment is considered a 'Simulacrum.'

- A. True
- B. False

3. How does the 'Cottagecore' aesthetic, prevalent in 2020s digital media, function as a socio-political critique beyond its visual surface?

- A. It serves as an endorsement of 19th-century agricultural efficiency standards
- B. It represents an anti-capitalist rejection of 'hustle culture' through the romanticization of subsistence
- C. It acts as a primary driver for the privatization of public park lands
- D. It is a literal manual for migrating urban populations to rural agrarian communes

4. The phenomenon where a consumer develops a one-sided emotional intimacy with a Twitch streamer or YouTube creator is known as a _____ relationship.

- A. Bilateral
- B. Parasocial
- C. Symbiotic
- D. Reciprocal

5. In analyzing the 'Dark Academia' subculture, what is the primary tension between its aesthetic and its accessibility?

- A. The conflict between digital photography and 35mm film grain
- B. The promotion of Eurocentric, elitist educational ideals versus the democratization of knowledge
- C. The disagreement over whether wool or tweed is the more authentic fabric
- D. The technical gap between fountain pens and digital styluses

6. According to Dick Hebdige's theory of subculture, the 'incorporation' phase occurs when a rebellious style is co-opted and sold by mainstream fashion industries.

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- A. True
- B. False

7. When a film like 'Everything Everywhere All At Once' uses a chaotic, multiversal structure to mirror the feeling of 'doom-scrolling,' it is employing a form of _____ mirrors.

- A. Structural homologies
- B. Aesthetic dissonance
- C. Narrative erasure
- D. Temporal flattening

8. Critiques of 'Virtue Signaling' in corporate Marvel advertisements during specific awareness months usually center on which concept?

- A. The 'Cinema of Attractions' theory
- B. The 'Culture Industry' and the commodification of social justice
- C. The Auteur Theory of directorial control
- D. The Bechdel-Wallace test for character dialogue

9. The 'Dead Internet Theory' suggests that the majority of digital pop culture trends are curated and engaged with by human 'super-fans' rather than algorithmic bots.

- A. True
- B. False

10. The use of the 'Gritty Reboot' (e.g., *The Batman* or *Joker*) represents an industry shift toward _____, making fantasy tropes feel more grounded in real-world trauma.

- A. Camp aesthetic
- B. Psychological Realism
- C. Surrealist Absurdism
- D. Vaudeville tradition