



AMERICAN UNIVERSITY OF BEIRUT

CIVILIZATION SEQUENCE 204

FINAL WRITTEN INTERPRETATION EXERCISE

A.U.B.
II.Sem. 2001

June 6, 2001
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OPEN BOOKS - OPEN NOTES - OPEN MINDS

(TIME: 1 1/2 HOURS)

ANSWER ONE QUESTION ONLY:

I. "MARXISM...A METAPHYSICAL DREAM"? (Popper, p. 12):

1. Analyze briefly Popper's justification for the above conclusion, with its implications for this "ideology".
2. Respond to it from the point view of Gissors OR Kyo OR Vologin OR Chen; and Freud OR Nietzsche. (Clarify if they accept or reject Popper's analysis).
3. Conclude and state your OWN opinion.

OR II. "BEYOND GOOD AND EVIL" ?

"That which is done out of love always takes place beyond good and evil." (Nietzsche, Aphorism 153, p. 103)

1. Elaborate the consequences of the above quotation on the concept of man and the "value system" within the overall Nietzschean context. (Briefly).
2. Comment on the following murders in the light of the above quotation:
 - a) Jean Morris: from the point of view of Mustafa Sa'eed OR Prof. Maxwell Foster-Keen.
 - b) Wad Rayyes: from the point of view of Hosna OR Mahjoub OR the narrator.
- (Do not forget to state clearly how your analysis relates to Nietzsche's aphorism).
3. Conclude and state your OWN opinion.



OR III. WOMAN

"...the most mediocre of males feels himself a demigod as compared with women". (S. de Beauvoir, p. 11)

1. Why? Analyze very briefly. Is there a remedy recommended? Specify.
2. Respond to the above on the basis of two concrete examples from Malraux, **OR** Nietzsche, **OR** Mahfouz, **OR** T.Saleh.
3. Conclude and state your **OWN** opinion.

OR IV. "THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE"

"...THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE WAS THE KEY TO THE FUTURE: NO ONE HAD A CHANCE WITHOUT IT". (SALEH , P.53)

1. Analyze the above quotation within its specific context, with a view to comment critically on Mostafa Sa'eed's and/or the narrator's "English" education and its consequences.
2. Within this same frame of reference analyze the role and function of the English language in Midaq Alley on the basis of one or two concrete examples.
3. Conclude by evaluating the situation in your own society today and the available "key to the future".

OR V. "In this IMMENSE CONFUSION ONE THING ALONE IS CLEAR..." (Beckett)

1. Analyze the above quotation with a view to clarify what this immense confusion represents, and what the one clear thing stands for vis-a-vis Man's image of himself or his self-understanding as presented in "Waiting for Godot".
 2. Select one character in **TWO** (2) of the following works and develop an adequate argument which reflects the "one thing alone is clear..." according to his/her self-understanding:-
 - (a) Man's Fate •
 - (b) Midaq Alley •
 - (c) Season of Migration to the North.
 3. Conclude and state your own opinion and/or evaluation.
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OR VI. "DIGNITY IS THE MOST PRECIOUS TYPE OF DEFORMITY" (Midaq Alley, p. 108)

1. Justify the above Zaita principle in the light of his "creative" profession as the "Mutilator".
 2. Comment critically from the point of view of Freud **OR** Kyo in Man's Fate.
 3. Conclude and state your **OWN** opinion.
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OR VII. THE SYMBOL OF THE HAT

1. Analyze briefly the significance of this symbol in both "Waiting for Godot" and "Season of Migration to the North".
 2. Compare critically the function of the "hat" in both texts, (by pointing out the similarities and the differences).
 3. Conclude and state your **OWN** opinion.
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OR VIII. "IN MENTAL LIFE NOTHING WHICH ONCE HAS BEEN FORMED CAN PERISH" (Freud, p.16)

1. Analyze briefly this Freudian principle within its context by pointing out clearly its consequences on our self-understanding.
 2. Take this quotation as your criterion and analyze **ONE** of the following:
 - a. Lucky in "Waiting for Godot" (with particular reference to his speech);
 - b. Sheikh Darwish in "Midaq Alley";
 - c. Mostapha Sa'eed;
 - d. Chen **OR** Clappique.
 3. Conclude and state your **OWN** opinion.
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GOOD LUCK!