

Name:

Date:

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DIRECTIONS: On a separate piece of paper rewrite these questions and answer each of them in two or three sentences. Once you are finished attach **this page only** to the front and hand your work in for marking. Each question is worth 2 marks.

Questions to answer while you read the novel.

PART I Chapter 1

1. When does the story take place?
2. Where does the story take place?
3. Why doesn't Meursault visit his mother in the nursing home more often?
4. Was it strange that Meursault's mother wanted a religious burial?
5. What explanation does Meursault give for not wanting to view his mother in the casket?
6. Why was Thomas Pérez allowed to attend the funeral?
7. Why is the vigil so short?

8. What last thoughts does Meursault have of his Mother's burial?

PART I Chapter 2

1. The day after his mother is buried, who does Meursault meet?

2. Why does Marie "recoil slightly" when told that Meursault's mother died only yesterday?

3. Does Meursault mourn for his dead mother?

4. What is revealed about Meursault's character when he says at the end of Chapter 2 "...I realized that I'd managed to get through another Sunday, that mother was now buried, that I was going to go back to work and that, after all, nothing had changed?"

PART I Chapter 3

1. Why do you think Meursault washes his hands before he goes to lunch?

2. Describe Meursault's two neighbours.

3. Why did Sintès beat his girlfriend till she bled? Did this satisfy him?

4. What proposal does he put to Meursault?

5. Does Meursault accept the proposal?

PART I Chapter 4

1. When Marie asks if he loves her, how does Meursault respond?
2. What happens in Sintès room?
3. What reaction does Meursault have about what Sintès does?
4. How does Salamano react to losing his dog? Did he really hate it so much after all?

PART I Chapter 5

1. Where does Sintès invite Meursault to go?
2. Does he accept the offer?
3. What proposal does Meursault's boss make to him? Does he accept?

4. What does Marie propose to Meursault?

5. How would you describe Meursault's attitude and behaviour towards his job and Marie?

6. What does Meursault learn about his mother from Salamano?

7. What changes in Salamano have occurred because of the loss of his dog?

PART I Chapter 6

1. What do Meursault, Marie, and Sentès decide to do?

2. Who watches them board the bus?

3. Who do they meet at the beach?

4. Who do Meursault, Sentès, and Masson meet on the beach? What happens?

5. When the men return to the beach again, after Sentès is patched up, where do they find the two Arabs from their earlier encounter?

6. What happens in this encounter with the Arabs?
7. In your opinion, why does Meursault shoot the Arab?

PART II Chapter 1

1. What has befallen Meursault?
2. Does Meursault seem to take his situation seriously?
3. Why does Meursault's lawyer become frustrated with him?
4. How does Meursault describe his character?
5. Why does the judge become frustrated with Meursault?
6. What does the judge take from filing cabinet and brandish in front of Meursault's face? Why?
7. Does Meursault regret killing the Arab?

8. In your opinion, does Meursault have a conscience?

PART II Chapter 2

1. Describe the prison cell that Meursault is in.
2. When Marie comes to visit him, what is her mood like?
3. What advice of his mother's does Meursault remember in prison?
4. What part of being imprisoned does Meursault find the most difficult?
5. What does Meursault realize he has been doing for days on end?

PART II Chapter 3

1. What first impression does the jury make on Meursault?
2. In what ways is the Algerian justice system different than ours?
3. What witnesses will testify at his trial?

4. How does the prosecutor try to show that Meursault doesn't have a conscience?

PART II Chapter 4

1. What does Meursault realize when he thinks he wants to say something to defend himself?
2. Does the prosecutor believe the crime was premeditated, or an act of passion?
3. What does the prosecutor say about Meursault's soul?
4. How does the defence lawyer respond about Meursault's soul?
5. What took Meursault so long to meet Marie's gaze?
6. How does he react to his sentence? Is his reaction what you would expect under the circumstances?

PART II Chapter 5

1. Why does Meursault think watching the execution is so important?

2. What does Meursault find wrong with using the guillotine as a form of execution?

3. Why doesn't Meursault sleep at night?

4. What does Meursault believe about life and living?

5. When the chaplain says to Meursault "your heart is blind," what does he mean?

6. Why does Meursault explode at the Chaplain?

7. While thinking of his mother, Meursault opens himself up for the first time to "the benign indifference of the world." What does he mean?

8. Why does Meursault want the crowd to hate him when he goes to the guillotine?

Questions to answer after reading the whole novel.

1. From what literary point of view is the story told?

2. Who or what is the protagonist?

3. Who or what is the antagonist?

4. Describe the author's tone in the story.

5. What type of conflict is present in this story?

6. What does the author tell you about the place where the story happens?

7. Briefly describe the rising action.

8. Briefly describe the climax.

9. Briefly describe the falling action or denouement.

10. Briefly describe any foreshadowing in the novel.

Paragraph Response Questions

Each of the following questions should be answered in a well-written paragraph or two. (10 marks each)

1. What evidence is there in the story to support the notion that Mersault doesn't have emotional ties to people.
2. Throughout the story, Mersault engages in many absurd actions. Describe at least three of them and explain why they are absurd.
3. Images of sunlight and heat are found all through the novel, but there are three occasions when they are extremely significant to the plot. Describe each of those occasions.
4. Is *The Outsider* an appropriate title for this novel? Justify your answer.