

## **History of Sexuality:**

### **Q: What are Foucault's four great strategic unities?**

A: Hysterization of women's bodies, pedagogization of children's sex, socialization of procreative behavior and psychiatrization of perverse pleasure

### **Q: Fill in the blank. Foucault sets up a binary system consisting of *scientia sexualis* and \_\_\_\_\_.**

A: *ars erotica*.

### **Q: Summarize Rictor Norton's argument in his essay "Essentialism and Queer History".**

A: Essentialism; trans-historical core of desire. (Answers will vary)

### **Q: Summarize Jeffrey Week's argument in his essay "The Social Construction of Sexuality".**

A: Sexuality is socially constructed. (Answers will vary)

### **Q: What is biopower?**

A: The practice of modern states and their regulation of their subjects through "an explosion of numerous and diverse techniques for achieving the subjugations of bodies and the control of populations." (Foucault, 140)

### **Q: Foucault writes about the deployment of sexuality and the deployment of alliance. How does he distinguish between the two?**

A: "The deployment of alliance is built around a system of rules defining the permitted and the forbidden...whereas the deployment of sexuality operates according to mobile, polymorphous, and contingent techniques of power" (Foucault, 106).

## **The Scarlet Letter:**

**Q: What does Hester’s “A” stand for at the beginning of the novel, and what does it come to stand for (in the townspeople’s eyes)?**

A: Adulterer, Able

**Q: Fill in the blank. *The Scarlet Letter* takes place in the \_\_\_\_\_ century but was written in the \_\_\_\_\_ century.**

A: Seventeenth, nineteenth.

**Q: Describe the three major scaffold scenes in chronological order.**

A: The first scaffold scene is at the beginning of the novel, when Hester has just left prison with Pearl, who is still an infant. Arthur Dimmesdale asks her to reveal the identity of her fellow sinner, but she will not. The second scaffold scene is in the middle of the novel. It takes place at night – Dimmesdale is on the scaffold, and Hester and Pearl, who are coming back from watching over the deathbed of Governor Winthrop, join him. When they stand on the scaffold together, holding hands, an A appears in the sky. The final scaffold scene is at the end of the novel, when they are again all on the scaffold together, and Dimmesdale confesses his sin and then dies. (Answers will vary)

**Q: How is Pearl related to the pedagogization of children’s sex?**

A: Since she is the product of a ‘sinful’ act, there is worry that her sexual knowledge will be too great, too early (mostly on Hester’s part). Pearl is preternaturally sexualized through descriptions of her beauty and her ornate clothing.

**Q: What is the importance of distinguishing between “natural versus unnatural” and “normal versus abnormal”?**

A: The earlier is appropriate to use when discussing Puritan times, and the latter, Victorian. When discussing history, one must have a “historical consciousness,” and avoid

inappropriately imposing contemporary terms and concepts on different time periods.

## **Lolita**

**Q: What is the term Humbert Humbert uses to describe Lolita and other children who similarly arouse his interest?**

A: Nymphets.

**Q: Give one example of a criticism of Freudian analysis evident in Lolita.**

A: Humbert Humbert scoffs at the idea that his lust for so-called nymphets stems from an unfinished childhood romance with a girl named Annabel who died shortly after he met her.

**Q: What did the 1949-1953 Alfred Kinsey reports reveal about American sexuality?**

A: “Kinsey reported that [Americans] had sex – lots of it, and in many different configurations. With massive quantities of data, the Kinsey reports documented the wide gap between what Americans did and what they said.” (Peiss, 367).

**Q: How does H.H. distinguish himself from Charlie Holmes, the boy Lolita has sex with at camp?**

A: “The rapist was Charlie Holmes; I am the therapist – a matter of nice spacing in the way of distinction.” (Nabokov, 150).

**Q: What is the crime that H.H. is ultimately arrested for?**

A: Murdering Cue, the man who takes Lolita away from him.

## **Angels in America**

**Q: Where do Harper and Prior first meet, and what can they see about each other?**

A: The “threshold of revelation” (in a dream). Prior knows Harper’s husband, Joe, is gay. Harper sees that there is still a part of Prior that is not infected by AIDS. (Answers will vary)

**Q: Give an example of how black Americans responded to the AIDS crisis, based on “Cleveland’s Black Community Responds to AIDS, 1998.”**

A: “Denial about the AIDS risk of needle drug use and unprotected sex, mistrust of a white-dominated medical system, misconception that AIDS is only a white, gay disease” (Peiss, 457). (Answers will vary)

**Q: Is Roy Cohn homosexual?**

A: “Roy Cohn is not a homosexual. Roy Cohn is a heterosexual man, Henry, who fucks around with guys.” (*Millenium Approaches*, 46) (Answers will vary)

**Q: How is Kath Weston’s essay on *Gay Families as the “Families We Choose”* exemplified in Tony Kushner’s *Angels in America*?**

A: Prior, Belize, Louis and Hannah form a family unit that transcends blood ties (as evidenced by the epilogue). (Answers will vary)

**Q: Who is Roy Cohn representing at the end of the play, and in what case?**

A: He is representing God, who the Angels have accused of abandoning them.

**Sula:**

**Q: What are the two reasons given for the town's name: Bottom?**

A: Because the land is "bottom land" and because it's "the bottom of heaven" (Morrison, 5).

**Q: How does Sula intimidate the gang of Irish Catholic white boys who are harassing Nel and her?**

A: She cuts off the tip of her finger.

**Q: What is Nel's realization at the end of the novel?**

A: It was Sula she had been missing, not Jude.

**Q: What holiday does Shadrack begin in Bottom?**

A: National Suicide Day.

**Q: How is the pedagogization of children's sex evident in Sula?**

A: Sula learns about sex from her mother, Hannah, and bases her actions off of her mother's. (Answers will vary)

**Middlesex:**

**Q: Where does Cal first feel the label 'monster' fading?**

A: 69ers, in "Octopussy's Garden".

**Q: Who is Calliope's object of sexual desire?**

A: The Obscure Object.

**Q: Summarize why the public opinion toward Christine Jorgenson changed from positive to negative.**

A: The public realized she was not a hermaphrodite or pseudohermaphrodite who had 'corrective' surgery and therapy, but rather a "transvestite" and "castrated male" (Peiss, 368).

**Q: Fill in the blanks. When Calliope is at the library, she looks up the word hypospadias, which leads her to eunuch, which leads her to \_\_\_\_\_, which leads her, finally, to \_\_\_\_\_.**

A: Hermaphrodite, monster.

**Q: Fill in the blank. A *TIME* magazine article asked, in reference to Christine Jorgenson, "Can a male transvestite possibly lead a relatively happy life as a woman?" (Peiss, 376). The Danish doctors who performed her sex change operation were quoted as answering: "If Jorgensen had been able to \_\_\_\_\_, the prognosis would be much more favorable." (Peiss, 376)**

A: "slide quietly into society and be accepted as a woman"  
(Answers will vary)