

The Guest – Albert Camus – Reflective Questions

Textbook pages 1244 -1257

40

2pts

1. Why does Camus set the story on a remote outpost in Algeria, just after a freak snow has isolated it even more profoundly than usual?

2pts

2. What is the significance of the following: “On the blackboard the four rivers of France, drawn with four different colored chalks, had been flowing toward their estuaries for the past three days.”

2pts

3. How does Daru feel about where he lives?

2pts

4. Why is life so difficult for Daru’s pupils and their families?

1pt

5. What is Daru’s attitude toward the climate and his students? Explain your answer.

1pt

6. Why has Balducci brought the Arab to Daru?

1pt

7. What crime has the Arab committed?

1pt

8. What is the point of Balducci’s initial conversation with Daru?

2pts

9. Why does Balducci think he can leave the prisoner with Daru? Explain your answer.

2pts

10. Why does Daru say he will not take him to prison? What is Balducci’s attitude about this?

2pts

11. What do you think is affecting Daru's decision? Explain your answer.

4pts

12. How are Daru's and Balducci's attitudes toward the situation different? Explain how each of them determines how they think they should handle the situation.

2pts

13. Why does Daru give the Arab the opportunity to escape?

2pts

14. What does the Arab do at the end of the story? What does his decision tell the reader about him?

2pts

15. What are Daru's internal and external conflicts?

2pts

16. In what ways does Daru treat the Arab as a guest? In what ways is Daru a guest in Algeria?

1pt

17. How does Daru's situation in Algeria similar to Camus's own situation?

2pts

18. What are the moral implications of Daru's attitude toward the Arab and the situation of having to choose whether or not to carry out Balducci's order? **Explain your answer.**

2pts

19. What is ironic about what happens to Daru at the end of the story?

5pts

20. Based on the actions of Balducci, the Arab, and Daru, what is Camus saying about "making decisions"? Explain your answer.