

## I. Very Short Answer Questions:

1. Of the authors we have read thus far, who was assassinated by the Kempeitai (Japanese secret police) in Indonesia in 1945?
2. What was Li Mu-ning's previous name, from the short story *Yu-kuan*? What deplorable thing does he do?
3. What does (茅盾) Mao Dun's pen-name mean? What does he use it? (2 points)
4. What does (巴金) Ba Jin's pen-name mean? Why did he choose it? (2 points)
5. What does (冰心) Bing Xin's pen-name mean? Why does she choose it? (2 points)
6. What political affiliation was initially more popular in modern China, Marxism or Anarchism? (1 point)
7. What is the name of the Bengali poet who was the first non-European to win the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1913? (1 point)
8. Where do the characters in Xu Dishan's novella *Yü-kuan* travel?
9. Of the authors we have read so far, who studied religion? Where outside of China? (Hint: two countries)
10. When does the narration of Ding Ling's "When I was in Xia Village" take place? What kind of job does the narrator have?
11. Where does the narrator in "Sinking" study abroad? (Choose the correct answer)
  - A) Burgundy
  - B) London
  - C) USA
  - D) Japan
  - E) Germany
12. Mao Dun's "Spring Silkworms" CAN NOT be characterized as a \_\_\_\_\_ text. (1 point)
  - A) realist
  - B) romantic

- C) Marxist
- D) Naturalist

## **II. Short to Medium Long Answer Questions (reply with at least a few complete sentences)**

1. In “Dog” by Ba Jin, why does the narrator want to become a dog?
2. Why does Roland Barthes argue for “The Death of the Author”? How does it conflict with the essay on literary criticism we read by Bing Xin? What is at stake in these conflicting arguments?
3. Which three texts does the protagonist of “Yu-kuan” carry with her? Why?
4. Name and describe one of the contradictions narrated in “Spring Silkworms”.
5. List meaningful pennames of at least three authors that we have read. (Write on more for extra credit.) Describe why their pennames are meaningful and how they can be seen as being indicative of the author’s work or life philosophy. Which author has the most ironic penname? Which author do you see as having the most fitting name? If you chose a penname for yourself, what might it be?
6. Freedom is an important concept in “Xiaoxiao” but not as one might think. Explain.
7. How is the world described in “When I was in Xia Village” different from the other texts we have read? How is this a unique world and historically specific?
8. What literary current or form of literature does Zhou Yang ultimately advocate? Why?
9. What kinds of realisms does Zhou Yang mention? Name some of the foreign authors Zhou Yang identifies with each kind.
10. What does creating types mean in Zhou Yang’s essay? Why ought one create types as a literary author?
11. According to Zhou Yang, what does a realist author do? How must they train their consciousness?
12. In the history of literature, which two currents does Zhou Yang argue ought to be seen as intertwined even though they are often not seen as such? Why should they be seen as intertwined?
13. What are the three smiles described in Bing Xing’s “The Smile”? Under what conditions does the narrator of the story encounter each of the smiles?

14. What is the relationship between Ye Shengtao's aesthetic theory and the short story we read from him "A Posthumous Son"?

### **III. Medium-length to Long Answer Questions**

1. Please do a close reading of "With My Injured Hand" by Dai Wangshu.
2. Why does the narrator in "Sinking" appear to commit suicide at the end of the story? According to the narrator, what is the main reason for his depression?
3. In "Yü-kuan" by Xu Dishan, how is Christianity portrayed and what kind of epistemological issues does this portrayal point to? What role does Christianity play in the society of this short story?
4. As discussed in class, please describe and explain at least three types of conflict or contradiction that one can use to interpret *Creation* by Mao Dun.
5. On multiple occasions we have discussed contraction in class. What are the three forms of contradiction we discussed in relation to "Spring Silkworms"? To which aesthetic theory and literature is it most relevant? How are these contradictions related to other short stories we have read in class?
6. Which "war" did the Qing Dynasty lose in 1894-1895? Why was this defeat significant? Of the short stories we have read so far, in which one is this defeat portrayed most vividly? What is the main character's name? How does the defeat affect his psyche? How is the idea of national allegory related?