

1. Please describe the core issue of the following paragraphs, give your comment on it, and also relate it to one literary work you have read thoroughly. within 300 words. (70%)

Eclecticism is the degree zero of contemporary general culture: you listen to reggae; you watch a western; you eat McDonald's at midday and local cuisine at night; you wear Paris perfume in Tokyo and dress retro in Hong Kong; knowledge is the stuff of TV game shows... Together, artist, gallery owner, critic, and public indulge one another in the Anything Goes—it is time to relax. But this realism of Anything Goes is the realism of money: in the absence of aesthetic criteria it is still possible to measure the value of works of art by the profits they realize.

The postmodern would be that which in the modern invokes the unrepresentable in presentation itself, that which refuses the consolation of correct forms, refuses the consensus of taste permitting a common experience of nostalgia for the impossible, and inquires into new presentations—not to take pleasure in them, but to better produce the feeling that there is something unrepresentable.

--from *The Postmodern Explained: Correspondence 1982-1985*,  
by Jean-François Lyotard

2. Please give your comment on the following paragraph, and relate it to a current social problem you have understood fully. within 150 words. (30%)

The endeavour, begun in the eighteenth century, to rationalize the problems presented to governmental practice by the phenomena characteristic of a group of living human beings constituted as a population: health, sanitation, birth-rate, longevity, race... It seems to me that these problems cannot be dissociated from the framework of political rationality within which they appeared and developed their urgency... In a system anxious to have the respect of legal subjects and to ensure the free enterprise of individuals, how can the "population" phenomena, with its specific effects and problems, be taken into account? On behalf of what, and according to what rules, can it be managed?

--"The Birth of Biopolitics", by Michel Foucault