

## QUESTIONS ON L'ÉTRANGER

Make notes in English on the following topics, backing them up with quotes from the text in French, add Folio page numbers

### Part 1

#### CHAPTER 1

1. Summarise Meursault's attitude to his boss.

He seems annoyed at him that his boss is unhappy that he is missing work to attend his mother's funeral. Meursault thinks that his boss is being unfair acting like this. "Il ne pouvait pas me les refuser avec une excuse pareille. Mais il n'avait pas l'air content" pg9

2. What are the main aspects of M's relationship to his mum?

He doesn't have a relationship with her and he only went to visit her in the home and couple of times a year. They didn't have a good relationship because he didn't have anything to say to her. "C'est un peu pour cela que dans la dernière année je n'y suis allé." pg12. He makes it seem as if it's a bit of an inconvenience to visit her.

3. Does M have friends? Explain

No, he is a very introverted person. Doesn't seem like he really has any friends, people are friendly towards him. But, he's not friends with them.

4. At different times in the chapter, M seems unwell – illustrate

His head was throbbing and he could hardly drag himself along. He also said that he was no longer sleeping but his kidney was hurting. "Je n'avais plus sommeil fatigué et les reins me faisaient mal" pg20

5. Give examples of how M disrespects or misunderstands society's rules and customs

He doesn't care much for his mother. He sees her funeral as a burden. He talks lowly of the elderly "Aussi parce que cela me prenait mon dimanche- sans compter l'effort pour aller à l'autobus, prendre des tickets et faire deux heures de route."

6. Summarise the interaction with the concierge

Quite awkward at first. Throughout the chapter, he develops better conversations.

7. How does M perceive old people?

He thinks all the women are fat, All the men are skinny and they were all holding canes. " Les hommes étaient presque tous très maigres et tenaient des cannes"pg19. " Je n'avais encore jamais remarqué à quel point les vieilles femmes pouvaient avoir du ventre" pg19

8. What do we see of M's attitude to death?

He is not sentimental about it and seems unchanged by the fact that his mother has passed. " Pour le moment, c'est un peu comme si maman n'était pas morte" pg10. Doesn't seem to be bothered by death. He is not shocked when the concierge starts talking to him about the decomposition of bodies.

9. How does M perceive nature?

He likes nature. He talks about the how the countryside had been buzzing for a while, with insects singing. "Que la campagne bourdonnait du chant des insectes"pg27

10. Comment on the style of writing and the narrator's point of view

The writers style of writing gives us an in-depth insight into what M is thinking. This allows us to see things from Ms point of view and understand his opinions. When he doesn't understand someone's questions, he doesn't give an explanation. He does realise when people are judging him for not fully understanding proper social etiquette and how to behave within society.

## QUESTIONS ON L'ÉTRANGER

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Part 1

### CHAPTER 2

1. Meursault is a character who is sensitive to his environment – give examples from this chapter.

When he's going out with a girl, he almost said that it's not his fault that his mum died. This quote back this up "J'ai eu envie de lui dire que ce n'était pas ma faute, mais je me suis arrêté parce que j'ai pensé que je l'avais déjà dit à mon patron" pg 33. Takes time to talk about the streets, both with the people and without. Describes people very well.

2. Meursault is sensual – pick up examples of how sensitive he is to all senses (smell, touch, etc)

He smells the swimming pool water on Marie's hair. " Traversin l'odeur de sel que les cheveux de Marie" pg34. He hears children crying "Les enfants pleuraient ou se laissaient traîner" pg 37. Notices weather changes, very observant to weather and sky throughout chapter.

3. How does Meursault transgress society's rules in this chapter?

He doesn't know how to react when Marie asks if he's mourning. He almost tells her that it wasn't his fault that his mum had died. Relates back to when he told his boss his mother had passed away. Went out to enjoy himself the day after his mum died. Goes and sees a comedy movie. Goes swimming. Sleeps with Marie.

4. What do we learn about Marie?

That she's a girl from his past. He used to like her. He goes to the cinema with her. Slept with her, the day after his mum's funeral. She worked at the office he worked at, seemed like they both liked each other. She could have been put off by him. She found out that his mum just died. And she still went on a date with him. She doesn't judge him. Accepts him. Happy by nature.

5. Describe how M lives in his flat. Comment on his way of life.

He lives a very simple life in the one room. The space feels larger without his mum. "Il était commode quand maman était là. Maintenant il est trop grand pour moi et j'ai dû transporter dans ma chambre la table de la salle à manger" pg34. He has no objectives in life. Just seems to smoke and people watch. He needs what he needs, no more and no less.

6. Who is Celeste?

He owns a cafe. Celeste restaurant. Doesn't go to his usual restaurant. He doesn't go because he doesn't want to speak to anyone.

7. Meursault is on his balcony. What does he do – give details? What's the symbolic effect of this?

He watches people in the street. Such as, a family of two boys and a girl dressed in their Sunday best with their fat mother and dapper father. He also spots young boys going to the cinema and a group of girls. This is symbolic of him being disconnected from society. "C'était d'abord des familles allant en promenade, deux petits garçons en costume marin, la culotte au-des-sous de genou, un peu empêtrés dans leurs vêtements raides, et une petit fille avec un gros nœud rose et des souliers noirs vernis. Derrière eux, une mère énorme, en robe de soie marron, et le père, un petit homme assez frêle que je connais de vue" pg35. Very descriptive, description of the people is extremely detailed.

8. What is M looking at? Comment on the style of writing at this point.

The people on the street. The style is very descriptive. He talks about the clothes they wear and what they look like. Very poetic and artistic style of writing.

9. What do you think of his typical Sunday? Comment on the closing lines of the chapter.

He doesn't do much on his Sunday he just watches the street for hours and hours and wastes a day. He says that Sunday's are now just another day that his mother has died.

Don't forget to use quotes in French!

## QUESTIONS ON L'ETRANGER

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Part 1

### CHAPTER 3

1. Describe M's typical working day.

He files through bills on his desk. He enjoys washing his hands before lunch but not at the end of the day because the hand towel is wet from the day. He then goes to get dinner after at Celeste's restaurant. "S'amoncelaient sur ma table" pg 41. Maybe he is on the spectrum that's why he's so specific.

2. What do we learn about Celeste?

He is very caring as he asks M how he's feeling about his mum. Celeste is loving concerns for M's mum, asks if he's okay after his mums passing. He is the caring one in this novel.

3. Who is Salamano? Describe his relationship to his dog and M's reaction to it.

He is a man that lives in the same building as M. He has a dog with a skin condition that M says resembles Salamano himself. Salamano and his dog hate each other and when they go on walks it is like a battle between the two of them, always ending in Salamano beating and screaming at the dog.

4. Who is Raymond Sintès? Describe his job, his character and what he has done.

Raymond Sintès is another man who lives on M's floor. He tells people that he is a warehouse man but is believed to be a pimp. He is a violent character who has punched his ex girlfriend's brother because he thought she was doing him wrong. He also beat her for it. "L'homme avec qui il s'était battu le frère de cette femme" pg 48.

5. What does he want M to do?

He wants M to write a letter to his ex girlfriend convincing her to come to his apartment so that he can have sex with her and then throw her out. "Quand il m'a dit le nom de la femme, j'ai vu que c'était une Mauresque. J'ai fait la lettre. Je l'ai écrite un peu au hasard, mais je me suis appliqué à contenter Raymond parce que je n'avais pas de raison de ne pas le contenter" pg 52. He also says that he should spit in her face. "Il lui cracherait à la figure" pg 51

6. What is M reaction? What does it tell us about him?

M says he wouldn't mind writing the letter and that he can see Raymond's point. This shows that M is not like other people and doesn't see the abusive tone of Raymond's behaviour. He is passive and just agrees to other people in order to avoid trouble.

7. Explain the passage about "un vrai copain" towards the end of the chapter

Raymond wants to be friends with M but M doesn't care one way or the other so just says "yes" because he realises that Raymond wants to be friends so badly.

8. Why are these characters introduced, according to you?

They show how M reacts to different situations, particularly situations of abuse, highlighting that he doesn't care about people and doesn't understand or see the problems in these relationships.

Quotes in French, remember!

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Part 1

### CHAPTER 4

1. At the start of the chapter, all elements are there for M's perfect happiness. Choose some quotes.

He went to the cinema twice with Emmanuel. He met up with Marie on Saturday and went to the beach with her. "Je suis allé au cinéma deux fois avec Emmanuel" pg 55. "Nous sommes allés à quelques kilomètres d'Alger, sur une plage" pg55. He says he's enjoying floating in the sea.

2. What does Marie ask? How does M react? What do you think of this exchange?

Marie asks M if he loves her. M says that that sort of question has no meaning really but he supposed he didn't. Then Marie is upset for a bit but then cheers up. This shows that M doesn't see a lot of purpose in love and doesn't want to get too attached to people or perhaps is unable to. Marie seems slightly committed to feelings, then seems to move on from them very quickly. "Elle m'a demandé si je l'aimais. Je lui ai répondu que cela ne voulait rien dire, mais qu'il ne semblait que non" pg57. No emotional awareness, no social awareness. Doesn't sugarcoat it. Very blunt response.

3. Summarise the commotion at Raymond's flat.

He starts to beat a woman, that leads to her letting out a scream that goes right through you. This prompted Meursault and Marie to venture into the hall and see what was happening. Marie suggested that he call the police, but M explained that he doesn't like the police. Eventually a policeman shows up at the door. Raymond eventually answers. The police officer slaps him for not taking a cigarette out his mouth. Raymond explains that he was trembling because of the officer's presence. The police man leaves and everyone returns to their apartments. He is intimidated by the police. Instead of turning against the police, he says he'll get the girl back.

4. How do M and Marie react?

Marie says it's horrible and asks to go and get a police officer but M says that he doesn't like policeman. A policeman eventually shows up. Afterwards they return to their apartment and continue making lunch, until Raymond shows up.

5. What does M do with Raymond after the police has gone?

Raymond comes over to Meursaults apartment and explains the situation to which M replies with (you taught her a lesson, all right and that's what you wanted, isn't it). "Je lui ai dit qu'il me semblait que maintenant elle était punie et qu'il devait être content" pg60. They go for a walk to a cafe, play a game of billiards, m says it was a close game. Raymond suggest that they go to a brothel, m says he's not in the mood. Meursault doesn't know that he shouldn't be condoning Raymonds behaviour. They're not even friends, M hasn't registered their friendship.

6. What happens to Salamano?

He loses his dog and is worried about what will happen to him on his own. He says he doesn't want to pay the fine to get the dog out of the police pound. Then proceeds to call it horrible names. Later on M hears him weeping in his room, probably because he misses the dog. "Donner de l'argent pour cette charogne" pg62. "J'ai compris qu'il pleurerait" pg63. He doesn't eat, this suggest that he is upset for once. Pain of losing someone close to you.

7. Comment on the last few lines of the chapter.

Salamano is heard pacing about his room and then crying. M then thinks of his mother and says he doesn't know why he has. Then he goes to bed without having his dinner/supper. M says that Salamano's crying has made him think about his mother, probably realising that he should have been crying about her death. At this point he seems to understand that someone crying, makes him think of a lost loved one, maybe he is able to understand emotions better than we think. "Je ne sais pas pourquoi j'ai pensé à maman" pg63.

8. Try and reflect on the development of M's character in this chapter.

M becomes more connected to Marie and Raymond. Sometimes he has feelings, but he doesn't recognise them. He doesn't do anything about them then other times he has no feelings at all about situations and he tends to just go with the flow. He is unable to judge situations, for example when Raymond is beating the girl, he doesn't confront him and tell him it's morally wrong. He just seems to accept it and says that Raymond should be happy that he had punished a girl. The same can be



said when doesn't want to tell Marie that he doesn't love her, as he doesn't want to hurt her feelings. It's the same with Salomono and his dog, he tells him about the dog possibly being in police dog impound and says that his dog may be disposed of in 3 days if he doesn't pay the money to get it back.

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Part 1

### CHAPTER 5

1. What are the arrangements M makes with Raymond?

Raymond told him that his friend had invited M, to spend the next Sunday with him at his seaside bungalow, just outside Algiers.

2. Summarise M's conversation with his boss, using significant quotes.

His boss sent for him, he thought that he was going to be asked to stick to his work and not chat with friends during working hours. But instead he wanted to discuss a project that was to open a branch up in Paris. M told his boss that he was prepared to move to Paris and that he didn't really care one way or another. His boss then asked him if a "change of life" didn't appeal to him. He then told M that he always shilly-shallies and lacks ambition, for someone who was in business. "toujours à côté, que je n'avais pas d'ambition et que cela était désastreux dans les affaires" pg67. Life is pretty futile and when he finished his studies he didn't make any effort.

3. Marie approaches M with another important question. Mention his reply and her reaction.

Marie asks if M, would marry her. He said that he doesn't mind, as long as she's keen on getting married. His reply gives us the impression that it won't make a difference in his life. Whereas Marie asks him again if he loves her, Ms answer prompts her to ask why would he marry her if he didn't love her. She then stares at him and asks if another girl he liked in the same way he liked her were to ask him if he'd marry her, he'd say yes. She then mutters that he's "queer/strange fellow". She likes him because he is strange. They are both strange. She has quickly fallen in love with his strange personality.

4. Through these exchanges, what transpires of M's philosophy?

His philosophy that life has no meaning or purpose transpires through here. When asked about if he loves Marie again. He replies yet again that the question has no meaning. He would have simply married Marie to provide her with pleasure. But it would have no effect on his life at all. Marie says that marriage is serious and M replies that it is not. Climbing up the social matter doesn't matter to Meursault. He turns down a fantastic job promotion, as he is not bothered about differing from normal life. Love, ambition, death all have no meaning to him. This helps emphasise his lack of morality.

5. Marie refuses to have dinner with him – comment on what follows.

A small chubby faced woman asks if she can sit at his table. The woman started studying the bill. She then put in her order. When she was waiting for her food, she took out slip of paper and a pencil and proceeded to add up the bill in advance. She then got out her purse and got out the exact amount of money and a small tip. Then she wolfed down her food voraciously. Then she got out a magazine with the daily programs and started ticking them and studying the magazine throughout meal. She got up, with robot like gestures and walked briskly out of the restaurant.

6. Any thoughts on the little woman who eats at his table?

She seems like an odd character. Asking to sit at his table, then not making conversation the entire time she was there. She is very organised and meticulous. Does everything a certain way, that's efficient for her. M describes her as a little robot.

7. Summarise M's conversation with Salamano.

He said he had been to the pound inquire about the dog. The staff said he was probably ran over. M suggested that he get another dog. Salamano points out that he was already used to the dog he had and that it wouldn't be the same. M says he found Salamano rather boring. So to keep the conversation going he asked some questions about the dog. Salamano said he got the dog shortly after his wife's death. He married later in life. He wanted to be on the stage when he was younger, but had to do military service. Says he was quite a good actor, so people said. He finally had a job in the railway. He not had a small pension. Him and his wife never hit it off very well, but they got used to each other. When she died he felt lonely, one of the men her worked with dogs had puppies and asked if he wanted one. He said that the dog was good all the same. M said that the dog looked well bred.

Salamano was pleased by this. They then go on to talk about the dog before it's illness.

8. What do we learn from Salamano in the last paragraph?

We learn that he did in fact care for the dog. And that he was lonely after the passing of his wife. We also learn that he said that his life was going to be a bit of a problem for him, under his new conditions. The last line of the chapter sums up his love and care for the dog. "J'espère que les chiens n'aboieront pas cette nuit. Je crois toujours que c'est mien" pg74. Salamano told Meursault that some people thought badly of him, as he sent his mum to a home and that they didn't understand why he would do such a thing.

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Part 1

### CHAPTER 6

1. How is Meursault feeling at the start of his beach day? Track the evolution of how he feels in the chapter.

He described getting up as an effort. He said that his head was slightly aching and that he was feeling limp. He then goes on to say that because he had the blinds shut in their room that the sun hit him in the eyes like a clenched fist. He says that when he is with the Arab that every nerve in his body is like a steel spring.

2. Describe Raymond's interaction with M and Marie at the start of the chapter.

M describes Raymond's outfit as his usual observant self. Marie laughs at Raymond's straw hat and M was put off by his attire. Raymond greeted M with "Hello, old boy" and "Mademoiselle" for Marie. M mentions that they had went to the police station the night before, in which M gave evidence for Raymond, about the girl being false to him. So the police let him off with a warning. And they didn't even check M's statement. When they were waiting for the bus, Raymond plucked M's sleeve to tell him to look across the road towards the Arabs who were watching them silently. Raymond told M that the man second from the left was "his man" and says that Raymond looked rather worried by this. However, Raymond assured M that it was ancient history. When they were on the bus on the way to beach, Raymond was making jokes to amuse Marie. M could see that Raymond was attracted to her. But that Marie hardly had a word for Raymond. And that every once and a while Marie would catch M's eye and smile.

3. How does M feel with Masson?

He thinks that Masson is boring and doesn't like that Masson always says 'what's more' between sentences even though the second thing adds little to the first, M doesn't really listen or pay attention to what Masson is saying, he seems to have very little interest in him. Further adding to M's inability to function in a sociable society, by having the common decency to listen to what Masson is saying and when he makes a comment about Marie M isn't annoyed he just suggests they go swimming. Masson makes a comment about about how Marie looks, and how Meursault doesn't say anything about it. There's a little bit of flirting.

4. Give examples of the elements of a perfect day for M in the chapter.

One of the elements for a perfect day for M, would be the heat from the sun hitting him for a lot of time make him happy. Another element is that he also enjoys the sensations of the ripples in the water. He likes being with Marie and around Marie, she is one of the very few people that he enjoys having conversation with and they both like each other, and their romantic feelings are mutual. He also enjoys when she touches him and he feels tingly. He enjoys the sound of the trickling stream of water. Masson is slightly similar to M, they both were hungry and Masson said that he likes this guy.

5. "Le soleil tombait" – find in this paragraph the first negative connotations of the chapter.

Create a summary of his perception of the sun and nature from now on.

He says that the glare from the water could have seared someone's eyes

6. Who do they meet at the beach? Describe the scene.

They meet two Arab men dressed in blue dungarees. Raymond says that one of the men was "his man" that he saw earlier on at the bus stop. They kept walking towards them. Raymond went up to talk to his man. Then Masson came up and punched the other Arab to the ground and then the other Arab man slashed Raymond's arm and his mouth, leaving him covered in blood. The man who had been punched got back up and stood behind the other man who had just stabbed Raymond and they slowly retreated using the knife to keep Masson and M back, then they turned around and ran away. M and Masson helped Raymond up, but Raymond insisted that his injuries didn't stop him from walking. Masson is crying, Marie is pale and M doesn't want to talk about the event that has just occurred.

7. Describe the second confrontation by the rocks – and M's reasoning.

After Raymond and Masson returned from the doctors. Raymond went on a walk and didn't want anyone to come with him. However, M followed him anyway. He followed him along the beach until he found the 2 Arab men lying on the beach minding their own business. When they approached the men neither of them flinched. The man who slashed Raymond just stared at him without saying anything. Raymond then put his hand next to his revolver pocket. Raymond then said to M " Je le descends" pg88. Or "Shall i plug him one?" M thought quickly and said that he shouldn't because he was in a bad mood and he thought he might lose his temper. M then says that he should wait until the man says something to him, mentioning that it would be an unfair trick to shoot him in cold blood. Raymond then says that is that's how M feels he should say something insulting and if the man answers back that he'll lose it. M then says that if the Arab doesn't get his knife out that Raymond has no right to fire. As the Arabs continued to watch all their movements. M says that Raymond should take the one on the right and give the revolver to him. It is very strange that Meursault would take the gun, after he warned Raymond not to shoot him.

8. From « C'était le même éclatement rouge" make notes of the description and role of the sun from M's point of view.

In this chapter he constantly complains about the sun annoying him, whether that be through it hampering his sight or making him too warm. Every time he felt the hot sun against his forehead, he grits his teeth. He is always trying to fend off the sun. He seems to be very aggravated by the sun towards the end of the chapter, adding that his jaws set hard because of the sun hitting pieces of broken glass or shells lying on the beach.

9. What happens in the last paragraph? What explanation are we given?

In the second last paragraph M had walked along the beach and had encountered just one of the Arabs lying on the beach. The Arab man saw him and continued to lie there. Two hours passed and the sun was having its toll on M, it was beginning to scorch his cheeks, beads of sweat were gathering on his eyebrows. He then mentions his mother's funeral, and compares the heat there on the beach as the same as the day of his mother's funeral. This is the first mention of his mother in this chapter. M could no longer take the heat and took one step forward, knowing that it wouldn't get him out of the sun. This prompted the Arab to get up and draw his knife. The sweat that accumulated on his forehead dripped down on to his eyelid. He then pulled the trigger on the revolver and fired 4 shots into the Arab man. The explanation that we are given is that all the nerves in his body gripped causing him to grip the trigger so tight, that he ended up pulling it.

10. What do you think of this event and of M now?

I don't think that M did anything wrong here, and he was defending himself from a knife attack. However, I do believe that he could have prevented this event from occurring if he had turned and walked the other way back towards the bungalow. I think that this event reiterates that M has no sense of social conduct and etiquette. He could have easily walked away from this potentially dangerous situation on his behalf, but instead decided to stay. This led to him shooting someone, which leads me to believe that he won't think it's an important issue, as we've seen his attitude to death in previous chapters.



## QUESTIONS ON L'ETRANGER

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Part 2

### CHAPTER 1

1. How does M behave after his arrest? (first 2 pages)

I felt that he was his usual self, acting as if he hadn't just killed a man. He was being usual observant self, pointing out the way that the police officers were dressed and how he thought the police officer gave off the impression that he was intelligent and likeable. "Il m'a paru tres raisonnable et, somme toute, sympathique" pg98. However, M said that there was one thing that put him off him, and that was that he seemed to have a nervous tic.

2. What does the conversation between M and his lawyer focus on? Give details

His conversation with his lawyer focuses on the fact that the case would need to be handled cautiously. His lawyer told him that there was a very good chance of the prosecution letting him off, providing that he followed his lawyers advice. His lawyer told him that people had been making investigations into his private life. And had learned that his mother had died recently. He also said that inquires had been made at Marengo., and the police had been informed that he had shown "great callousness "j'avais fait previews d'insensibilite" pg 99. The lawyer then asked if M felt grief and sadness after his mother died. M then replies that he had lost the notion for feeling loss in recent years.

3. M's interview with the prosecutor (juge d'instruction) does not go well. Pick what you consider as the important points in the exchange

That the juge says that he's a rather self-centred person and rather taciturn. "D'un caractere taciturne et renferme" pg102. M replies that he rarely has much to say so he just keeps his mouth shut. The juge then says that what he really is interested in is M himself, and that he was puzzled by the crime. M had already recalled all the events that had happened that day at his first interview with the juge. M was tired of repeating the same story. M felt as if he had never talked so much in his entire life. The judge then bluntly asks M if he loves his mother (second time mothers been mentioned in this chapter) M replies 'yes, like everyone else'. Then after this the judge asks a question with no apparent logical connection 'Why did you fire five consecutive shots?' M explains they weren't consecutive, it was one shot then followed by another 4 shots. M didn't answer the question to why he paused between the first shot and then the following 4 shots. M says that the judge alarmed him, which was odd considering that M was the criminal. The judge asked M if he believed in god, when M said that he didn't, the judge said that it was unthinkable and that all men believe in God, even those who reject him. The judge prayed for god to forgive M for his sins and wonders why M wouldn't believe that god suffered for M's sake.

4. Look in particular at the issue of religion. How do the judge and M see it?
5. Why does the judge become so agitated?

The judge becomes so agitated because he doesn't understand why M wouldn't believe in God, when in his view that God suffered for M's sins.

6. How does M respond to the judge's questions?

He answers the questions as we would expect him to. He answers truthfully when the judge asks him if he believes in god. He gets to the point where he just agrees with the judge as he can't be bothered with the conversation anymore. He says that he does this often. I feel as if here we are shown his lack of understanding of society as he answers all the questions truthfully, as we wouldn't expect criminals normally to be so truthful.

7. What does M say about nature and its influence on him? Take note of any mentions of how he feels physically.

He says that he recalled the red glow of the beach on his cheeks and the fiery breath on the cheeks when he was asked about why he took a pause then shot 4 more times. When the Judge is talking about God, he loses focus as the room is really hot and there were flies buzzing about. " À vrai dire, je l'avais très mal suivi dans son raisonnement, d'abord parce que j'avais chaud et qu'il y avait dans son cabinet de grosses mouches qui se posaient sur ma figure et aussi parce qu'il me faisait un peu peur" pg 105.

8. The last paragraph describes the legal process. Mention the most important points.

M says that he goes to see the judge on many different occasions. He says that each time he goes, that they ask him to recall the events that happened on the beach, each time he is there they ask him to recall the events again. Always asking him the same thing. M says that neither of the men showed any hostility towards him, but says that it seemed to be that they lost focus and interest in his case. M probably the normal murderer they deal with. "Il semblait que le juge ne s'intéressait plus à mon cas on quelque sorte" pg 108.

9. How is the legal system presented throughout this chapter?

I felt as if the legal system here seemed a bit strange, as the judge took religious bias. This would be unheard of nowadays. But this book is set in the 1950s in Catholic French Colonial Algeria. The best thing about this legal system, is that they wouldn't let any questioning or trial begin unless you had a lawyer. If you don't have a lawyer you would be given one by the courts

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Part 2

## CHAPTER 2

### 1. Describe M's life in jail.

At the start of his jail sentence he said that he was hardly conscious of being there. He got one visit from Marie and she wasn't able to visit anymore after this because she wasn't his wife. On the day of his arrest he was put in a room of Arabs, and he told them that he has shot an Arab. He then goes on to describe the cell he was put in by himself. He describes the room, saying where he slept was a plank of wood hinged to the wall. And that his only other furniture was a latrine bucket and a tin basin. Out of his little window he has a view of the sea. He describes entering the visitors room where Marie was. He says that there was a babel of voices that echoed of the bare walls, he says the sunlight was streaming in, flooding everything in a harsh white glare that made him feel quite dizzy. He says that it took him time to get adjusted to these conditions due to the dark cell he was held in.

### 2. Summarise Marie's visit

When he first saw her he described her as very pretty, but couldn't bring himself to tell her this. She asks him if he's alright and if he has everything he wants. M says he has everything he wants. There was a fat woman next to Marie bawling at the prisoner next to M. M says that the couple were talking about. Marie then said that Raymond sends his best wishes. M said thanks but his voice was drowned out by the man next to him asking his wife a question. M then strangely said that he had a sudden longing to squeeze the woman next to Marie shoulders because the silky texture of her dress fascinated him. Marie says that it will all be fine and they shall get married. M replies do you really think so, because he felt he needed to answer. Marie then said that he'll be acquitted and they'll go bathing again. M says he wanted to leave because of the jarring noise besides his ears. But he wanted to have the most of Marie's company as possible. He then says after the first person left that everyone fell quiet. Before the prison officer took him away, Marie threw him a kiss.

3. What does M call "des pensées d'homme libre"?

His habit of thinking. He says that he has a habit of thinking like a free man when he was in jail.

4. Is M unhappy in jail ? justify your answer

He was unhappy in jail because after his phase of imagining about going to the beach and hearing the sound of the ripples of water at his feet and the feel of the water on his body he remembered that he's in jail. He began to have prisoner thoughts. He would wait for the daily walk in the courtyard or a meeting with his lawyer. He describes himself as plagued with the desire for a woman, which he said was natural at his age. But he never said she thought for Marie especially. He says the cell grew with faces and ghosts of his old passions. He says that the lack of cigarettes was a trial too.

5. What story does he read on the paper he finds? Is it relevant /important?

It was a story of crime. It was set a village in Czechoslovakia. One of the villager had left to the village to try his luck abroad. After 25 years, he had made a fortune and returned to his country with his wife and child. When he was abroad his mother and sister had been running a small hotel in the village he was born in. He left his wife and child in another hotel and checking in to his mother and sisters hotel under an alias name. They didn't recognise him. At dinner this evening he showed them a large sum of money he had him and his mother and sister slaughtered him with a hammer. After taking the money they flung his body into the river. The next morning his wife came in to the hotel and without thinking about it gave up his identity. His mother hanged herself. Her sister threw herself into a well.

6. What do you make of the last paragraph?

I find it strange that M thinks that his entire jail sentence has only felt like the one day that had gone on for 5 months because he'd been doing the same thing everyday. M used the sun in this paragraph to introduce the hour in which m would rather not talk about. This hour is in the evening when sounds crept from all the prison floors in a stealthy procession. In this paragraph M says that he hears something he hadn't heard in months. It was his own voice. He realised that he'd been talking to himself the whole time he was in prison. This makes me think that there was a possibility that prison affected M psychology and made him a bit crazy.

## QUESTIONS ON L'ETRANGER

Make notes in English on the following topics, backing them up with quotes from the text in French, add Folio page numbers

Part 2

### CHAPTER 3

1. What is the other big story in court at the time of M's trial?

There was a case on the act of parricide. Which is the act of killing ones father.

2. How are the journalists described?

He described one of the journalists as having a grim expression. He described another man with black rimmed glasses as looking like an over fed weasel. He says that the journalists look like they are at home in the courtroom.

3. How does M feel in court?

4. What does he say about the young journalist?

He says that the young journalist has a plain and rather chunky face. He says that what caught his attention the most was the young journalists pale, clear eyes.

5. What does he observe about the lawyers?

6. Who are the witnesses?

The witnesses are Raymond, Masson, Salamano, his doorkeeper, old Perez and Maire

7. What are the two specific questions M is asked after formalities – how does he react?

He was asked to give details on who he was again (he had done this numerous times previously). He said that he was heartily sick of hearing the formality, but understands that it would be wrong for the courts to convict the wrong man. The second question that the judge asked him was (Is that correct?) when he went into an account of what M had done.

8. Summarise the statement made by the home director.

The judge asked the Home Director if Ms mum had complained about him. The HD replied “yes”. M says that it was common for the residents of the home to have made grievances against family members. The judge then asked the HD for more detail into what Ms mum had complained about and if she had complained about M sending her to a home. The HD said that Ms mum had complained about the fact that M had sent her to live in a home. To another question the HD replied that he was surprised by Ms calmness of the day of his mums funeral. The judge asked the HD to elaborate. The HD paused for a moment and looked at his shoes and then replied that what he meant by Ms calmness was that M didn't want to see his mums body and he hadn't shed a single tear and that he left immediately after the end of the funeral and left without lingering at her grave. The HD then said that one of the under takers had told him that M didn't know his Mums age.

9. How does it make M feel?

M says for the first time he realised how much all the people loathed him. Disliked him.

10. What about the statement from the concierge/janitor?

The Concierge told the judge that M hadn't wanted to see his mums body. That M has smoked cigarettes and slept. And that he had drank cafe au lait.

11. What about that of Perez? What effect does it have?

Perez says that he was the most upset person at the funeral. Even though he had only met Ms mum once. He then said that he was too upset to have noticed things. He said that his grief sort of blinded him. He said that the shock of his dear friends death caused him to faint during the funeral. He was then asked if he had seen M cry/weep. Perez answered No. Ms lawyer then said are you sure you didn't not see him cry. This doesn't have much effect in court as the Judge ignores it.

12. What about Celeste? How does it make M feel?

The judge asked if M was one of Celeste's customers. And Celeste replied that he was also a friend. When Celeste was asked to give his opinion on M he said that he was all right. When the judge asked Celeste to tell the court what he meant by all right, he said that everyone knows what he means by this. The judge asked Celeste if M was a secretive person. Celeste said that M isn't someone to waste their breath like a lot of people. M says that for the first time he wanted to kiss a man.

13. What about Marie? What is the lawyers' reaction?

The judge asked how long Marie had known M and she said since she had started working at the office. He then asked what the relation between them was and she said that she was his girlfriend. Marie admitted that she promised to marry M. The judge asked Marie about the first time she had intercourse with M very soon after his mother's funeral. Marie didn't answer at first, but the judge insisted that she did. Marie then gave accounts of what happened before they had intercourse. The judge then made Marie answer the name of a film they went to see. After this the judge gets up and points to M and announces to the courtroom that the day after his mother's funeral, he went swimming, met a girl and went to see a film with her. Marie then burst into tears. Saying that the judge had got it all wrong and that she'd been forced to say the opposite of what she meant.

14. What about Raymond? What effect does his statement have?

Raymond tells the court that it was he whom the Arab man had a grudge against because Raymond beat his sister up. The judge asked if the man also had a grudge against M, but Raymond says that it was pure coincidence that M was on the beach the same day as the Arab man. His statement leads to the judge to scrutinise M. Saying that he is an inhumane monster who has no moral understanding.

15. What is the conclusion of the lawyers at the end of the day?

The conclusion was that they accuse M of behaving at his mother's funeral in the way that someone who was already a criminal at heart would.



## QUESTIONS ON L'ÉTRANGER

Make notes in English on the following topics, backing them up with quotes from the text in French, add Folio page numbers

Part 2

### CHAPTER 4

1. Summarise M's thoughts in the first paragraph.

He first states that he finds it interesting when he is talked about by other inmates. This could suggest that he doesn't mind hearing people talking about him (most people aren't particularly fond of it when people talk about them behind their back). The way in which he says that the prosecution seem more interested in him personally rather than the crime that he committed is said in an almost intriguing way.

2. What is the procurator's reasoning about the murder, according to M?

The prosecutor said that the murder was premeditated. The prosecutor's reasoning was said in two different statements. He said that first you have the facts of crime, which are as clear as day. Then he said what he might call the dark side of this case, and these are the dark workings of a criminal mentality. He began telling the court accounts from after M's mum's death. He stressed M's heartlessness and how he couldn't remember his mum's age and the date he had with Marie the day after his mum's funeral. The prosecutor referred to Marie as the prisoner's mistress. M understood that everything the prosecutor was telling the court was quite plausible. M then goes on to list the things about the things he had done with Raymond, such as writing the letter to the girl, provoking the fight with the men on the beach.

3. In this chapter some very strong words are used by the representative of society to describe M and to call for capital punishment – what are they?

They said that he had committed the most odious crime.

4. M feels he has to respond – what do you think of his speech?

M tells the court that he never had any intentions to kill the Arab man on the beach. And that he only did it because of the sun. I think that his speech was a bit pointless as the whole case was sort of built on the basis of Ms strange and absurd personality and not the crime in which he committed.

5. What do you think of the lawyer's defense?

6. What is the sentence and how does M take it?

The sentence is that M is to be executed by decapitation. From what I understand, M seems to have taken the news rather well considering the fact that he's to be executed

7. Do you think the outcome of the trial is right? What are your thoughts on capital punishment?

Personally I do not believe that the outcome of this trial is fair, because M acted in self defence which is classified as manslaughter. I would not give the most harsh punishment under the law which is the death penalty for a crime in which someone acted under self defence. My thoughts on capital punishment vary on the severity of the crime.

## QUESTIONS ON L'ETRANGER

Make notes in English on the following topics, backing them up with quotes from the text in French, add Folio page numbers

Part 2

### CHAPTER 5

1. Summarise his thoughts about escape in the first two paragraphs

He says he tries to find a loophole, as he has always wondered if there has been any cases of condemned prisoners escaping from the law at the last minute, breaking free just before the guillotine falls. " Je ne sais combien de fois je me suis demandé s'il y avait des exemples de condamnés à mort qui eussent échappé au mécanisme implacable, disparu avant l'exécution, rompu les cordons d'agents" pg163. He wonders if Escape books existed, but he was never interested to look them up, this shows that he doesn't really care much for his fate. He said that he couldn't stomach the idea of a massive stampede to freedom. I find this strange as in the first chapters he didn't seem to be bothered when discussing a decaying corpse, but he can't stomach the idea of a stampede.

2. Who is mentioned here for the first time? Discuss

His father is mentioned here for the first time. M says that he'd never set eyes on his dad (never met him) "Je ne l'avais pas connu" pg 165. The only things that he knew about him were the things that his mother had told him. His mother once told him that his dad had gone to watch a murderer be executed, and that it made his father's stomach turn. Similar to M himself, with his stomach turning. His dad watched the execution and on the way home was violently sick. M said that he found his father's conduct rather disgusting (rather hypocritical). But he then goes on to understand why, and says that when an execution is viewed from one angle it is the only thing that can genuinely interest a man. M says that if he got out of jail he'd go and watch every execution.

3. What does M think about during the nights? And during the day?

At night he thinks about two things, he thinks about his appeal and dawn. He tried to make his mind of these things. He did this by, looking up at the sky and studying it or he would listen to his heart and the faint throbbing of it. He got into the habit of sleeping on and off during the day because they come for you at dawn, and he says that he doesn't like to be caught by surprise.

4. In the paragraph starting "pendant tout le jour" make note of two quotes reflecting M's attitude to dying.

"Eh bien, je mourrai donc. Plus tôt que d'autres, c'était évident" pg 171

"Mais tout le monde sait que la vie ne vaut pas la peine d'être vécue" pg 171

"C'était toujours moi qui mourrais, que ce soit maintenant ou dans vingt ans" pg 171

5. Make notes about the priest's visit. What does he say? Ask? What is M's response?

The first thing that the priest asks is why don't you let me come and see you. M replies that he doesn't believe in God. The priest makes sure he's sure of that. M says that he didn't need to bother troubling himself with the matter. The priest then tells M that God can help him, and that he's seen many men in Ms position who have turned to God. M then replies that they were free to do as they please, but he doesn't want to turn to God. The priest says that Everyman on Earth has a death sentence, M says its not the same thing, the priest then says that everyone will die someday. And then the priest says, the same same question will arise, (how wil, you face that last terrible, last hour?). M says that he'd face it the same he's facing it right now. The priest then goes on to ask if M has any hope or if he M thinks that there's no afterlife. M says yes. The priest then goes on to say that he is confident that ms appeal will be a success if he rids himself of guilt and sin. The priest then talks about the sadness he has witnessed inside the Ms cell. M says that he can't picture any faces inside his cell, and that he'd tried to picture Maries face. Priest says that he doesn't believe that Ms never thought about the afterlife. M said he had but it was merely a dream. The priest asks how how he could image the afterlife, and m says that he only wants an afterlife where he can remember the life that he had on earth. The priest then asks m why he hasn't called the him (the priest) father, m says that the priest isnt his father, and that the priest isnt on his side. The priest says that he is on Ms side and that he'll pray for him.

6. Study carefully the paragraph starting "Alors, je ne sais pas pourquoi", where M loses his temper. What is he so angry about? Use quotes.

He angry at the fact that the priest says that he'll pray for M. M told the priest not to waste his rotten prayers on him. He starts to hurl insults at the priest. Then he starts to shout out all his thoughts that had been simmering in his brain. I think that M could possibly be on the verge of a mental breakdown, that or he's getting all his thoughts, emotions and feelings out before he's executed. He has been locked up for a long time in solitary confinement, with minimal human contact and access to everything outside his walled cell.

7. In the final paragraph M finds peace. Summarise his thoughts.

He says for the first time in months he had thought of his mother. He says that he understands at near the end of her life, she had taken a fresh start. He says that if it was like a great rush of anger had wiped him clean, emptied him of hope. He says that for the first time ever that he laid his heart open to the universe. He says that he had been happy, and that he was still happy.

8. What do you think about the end of the novel?

Firstly I feel that it seems slightly unfinished, as we know he's going to get executed, but we never get a confirmation of the death. I think that this leaves the reader on a bit of an edge. Wondering what has happened to M. I feel that especially in the last paragraph that we see a new side of M, that has possibly come to terms with his death sentence, as he says that he's always been happy. He said that after he released all the anger through his rant to the priest that he'd been emptied clean. Almost as if he had got rid of all the bad thoughts and energy. He was ready to enter the afterlife, as a new happy human, with his past behind him. He has rarely mentioned throughout the book that he was happy, so I feel that saying this at the end of the book was good.

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