Dune Film Questions (David Lynch-1984)

INSTRUCTIONS (40 points total):

- **MLA Format, Times New Roman, 12 point font (Title your paper, "Dune Film Questions")**
  - **Up to 5 point deduction for formatting errors**
- **Proper grammar, spelling, and syntax (10 points)**
- **Question #1: Write a 1 paragraph reflection of the film (10 points)**
- **Question #2: Choose one of the questions below, and answer in 1 full paragraph (10 points)**
- **Question #3: Choose one of the questions below, and answer in 1 full paragraph (10 points)**
- **Extra Credit: Choose one of the questions below, and answer in 1 full paragraph (10 points)**
  - **Extra credit available to on-time papers only, no exceptions**
- **Submit to Canvas (see calendar for due date); See "Chapter Reading & Reflection Questions Rubric" for grading scale on class website (biknotes.com)**

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1. Choose a female character or group of characters from the film *Dune*. How are they portrayed; and what does this say about the film's gender politics?
2. The Baron Harkonnen is the only character with homosexual tendencies. Why do you suppose that is? How is he portrayed; and what does this say about the film's sexual politics?
3. Why do you think Frank Herbert chooses to create a universe where technology such as computers and basic communication devices (television news) does not exist? What thematic purpose does this serve in the film? Why? Does it detract or add to the film? Explain.
4. The Feydakin, made up of the tribal society known as the Fremen, are an indigenous revolutionary force led by a religious leader. What examples from history fit this description? What were the results of their revolutionary ambitions? What parallels exist between your historical example and the film?
5. The Spacing Guild uses a form of astral projection to travel through time and space, aided by a naturally occurring drug called the spice mélange. What are some examples of cultural practices that seek to expand consciousness that parallel this idea?
6. The Bene Gesserit sisterhood has practiced ***eugenics*** (practices that aim to improve the genetic quality of a human population by excluding certain genetic groups judged to be inferior) for many generations. The title of evolutionary biologist Charles Darwin's seminal work is "*On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Favoured Races in the Struggle for Life*". In what ways are the goals of the Bene Gesserit and Charles Darwin similar?
7. The death-alternative test, performed with a gom jabbar, is a rite of passage that is given as a test of one's humanity and purity. Failing the test meant that you were killed. What tradition(s) in our history are similar? What were their socio-cultural affects?
8. The spice mélange is a precious resource that the *Dune* Universe cannot function without. How do the politics of its control parallel our society? What message does Dune send about this precious natural resource?
9. Many shamanic (reaching altered states of consciousness to connect with the spirit world) practices are depicted in *Dune*. Dangerous, mind altering substances are transmutated in order to attain higher levels consciousness. What realizations do the characters make once they have attained this elevated state of awareness?
10. Trace Paul Atreides' character development, noting each part of the film that illustrates the various aspects of the hero's journey.
11. The most precious resource in the *Dune* Universe, besides the spice, is water (at least on Arrakis). What are the most precious resources on Earth; and what parallels exist between how the film depicts conflict over precious resources and the conflicts around the globe over similar concerns?
12. Religious leaders play an important role in the film. Do you see their role in the story as positive or negative? Name an example of a religious leader in history and compare and contrast it with the Dune film.
13. Religion, Politics, Ecology, and Economics: Which institution do you think holds the most power over the others in the film? Explain.