

1A. In the movie *Agora*, it portrays many transformations of human belief through individual experience, in other word paradigm, leads to change in social structure. To understand and distinguish the impact of different paradigms on Alexandria society, we must acknowledge that some characters change their paradigm or how they view the world over the course of story, and some are strongly attached to the same point of view. For example, Davus used to believe in philosophy and was eager to explore astronomical knowledge and find the truth of the universe, which we would say that at that time, he was positivism. However, when he met Ammonius, the Christain street preacher, he was convinced and started to believe in Jesus, so we would consider him as Postmodernism because no matter what his beliefs are, he still thinks that there are many questions left unanswered and current knowledge are not always true.

For Positivism in Alexandria, they are guided by principle of objectivity, knowability, and deductive reasoning. And think that everything can be proven empirically and scientifically. Hypatia is the great example of the positivist, even though the entire city was obsessed with religion, she leaned towards mathematical and astronomical truths, seeking to solve the mysteries of planets' orbiting patterns along with compromising the divisions in the city and avoiding dark future of religion influenced politic. However, the positivists in the story such as Hypatia and her student or Pagan's librarian have contributed only little to the society because their knowledge is available only for the Pagans. Even if they try to share their knowledge to society, the majority (Christain) will reject it and perceive their view as heretical anyway.

For Social Constructionism, it posits that truths vary based on the difference of experience each one perceives, therefore, people change their definition of truth all the time. The concept of religion is a great example of social construction, because it is not a cultural universal but rather built under the historical and political condition in the particular region. In this case, Christain and Pagans, both sides think that others that do not believe in their religion are heretical because each group was taught that their god is the only true and existing one while every word of god is true and must be followed strictly. This phenomenon has affected people's mindsets, for example, when Davus shares his master's food to the poor Christain, the poor will be taught that those foods came from the love and mercy of god. Therefore, the social constructionism paradigm is easy to widespread because a person is easier to convince when

there are many people supporting that idea. The impacts that they contribute are often related to improving their position in society and oppression to the different groups of belief.

When it comes down to a critical paradigm, like its name, it pays critical attention to the practical values and theories which inform everyday action. Therefore, people who live by this philosophy think that society and culture should be continuously improved through reflection of social problems. While constructive criticism of society structure can be beneficial, ignoring any study or investigation that does not have a social change agenda might create a tunneling vision towards the way of thinking. For example, in the film, Orestes seems to focus his political duty towards social structuring, solving conflicts, and controlling his political power. He perceived Hypatia's idea of exploring the astronomical and mathematical field as a useless subject since it cannot solve any problems occurring in Alexandria. The contribution of critical paradigm is achieving a certain level of harmony among different beliefs in the society for a certain period of time.

For postmodernism , it posits that truth is subjective and therefore being skeptical to any general viewpoints is the appropriate way of thinking. Since humans have independent logical thinking patterns, perspective toward societies, social practices, not to mention investigation techniques, they can be completely different from person to person. For instance, even though Davus believes in Jesus but he still doubt the way Cyril ruling that city through violence and fear in the respect of god. Even Though postmodernism philosophy tends to oppose others' way of thinking but with the logical reason behind this philosophy, it may contribute some thought provoking concepts to society as well which help prevent people from being blind followers.

1B. Another reason why Christain has an increasing number of followers may come from the Paganism way of ruling resulted in high inequality, therefore, Christain can provide many form of aids such as shelter or food and give the credit to Jesus. This phenomenon create a social constructive belief that everyone who are Christain is safe in the hand of god. It is interesting to imagine that if the Pagans governed the city that resulted in more equality and prosperity, it might resulted in a completely different story.

2A. If 'development' is the act or process of growth and progress, then, how does each society know that the particular act will lead to growth and not creating more problems? Since each society has different characteristics and issues, it seems inevitable that using the same development plan will never solve the same problem. When the society tries to approach the problems, they will consider some related factors such as income per capita, demographic information, and economic regime. Since these factors are unique in each country, most developers will find it challenging to make some positive changes even though there are study cases about particular problems but there are no blueprints, it has to go through trial and error method anyway. For example, the conflict between happiness and productivity, Majority of Italian think that vacation is crucial for everyone and supporting their workers through many days off and paid vacation are very wise, because working under stress-free conditions contributes to more efficient output and outweighed the resources spent on employees travelling expenses. But this idea might not be suitable for the United States because of high competitiveness and many companies are very concerned about the advantage of their business position. Therefore, the common definition of development should be based on in-depth understanding of the culture, value, and passion of each society with respect to the locals.

2B. In the age of globalization, sustainability seems to be the most important concept that can determine the potential of the country's growth and development. While some developed countries only concern about their economic development regardless of limitations of natural resources exploited and harmed, those countries may be richer for certain periods of time but there are irreversible consequences like damage to the environment that cause the countries more exposed to famine and disaster. Accordingly, the determinant of efficient development may not be about the well-being and economic growth of current generations, but it's the potential to meet the needs of the present while paying attention to the well-being of future generations. Because the existence of humanity is like an endless race, that going fast is not as important as how long we can stay in the race. Sustainable development consists of 17 different goals that are

comprehensive and accurate enough to use as an indicator to forecast what direction the countries are heading to.

2C. I do not believe that development is conceivable without economic growth. To emphasize, either development of social, economy, and environment ,all require capital to accomplish the project. If the energy and capital invested do not contribute any tangible result ,it can be considered as failure. However, it does not mean that every development project has to positively affect the economy directly and immediately. When it comes down to development in any aspect, we must consider the real objective as top priority. For example, supporting gender equality aimed to provide equal access to opportunity to any gender, not for a better economy. But gender equality might provide a better economy anyhow. Hence, I believe that each development project does not need to be concerned about the economy because it will provide a better economy through externalities of the project itself. Considering the development of education and environment, it's more like a long term investment that has to wait so many years to see the impact of changes, but ultimately, the economy will certainly be benefitted from the project or even worse if it's not implemented.

3. Division of labor in Adam Smith's concept emphasizes the potential that will generate tremendous amounts of output from specialized workers. The reason that Smith thinks it is the appropriate method is because he believes that people have different strengths and weaknesses, so working on the things that one does best and let others do the rest will increase efficiency. Therefore, Adam Smith's concept encourages people to utilize their skill to reap the most benefit out of the job, but it's not so true. In the movies, there are many Americans who are former workers of GM and came back to work at Fuyao, even though they stated that making glasses of cars is the job they love and specialized, however, the outcome of the work shows that they are not really productive human resources. While the Chinese laborers show more dedication and come up with better results.