

1.

A) The storyline of the movie 'Agora' is based on ancient war in the fourth century A.D. The main character is Hypatia, a respected female teacher of the city. Hypatia has many students, all of them are male students, under her guidance.

The dominant theory taught in Hypatia's class is 'the law of planetary motion'. Every student understands the theory in the identical way. One of Hypatia's students, Davus, constructed the model from the theory to prove it. The law of motion should be Positivism that can be scientifically proved and there would be only one final truth about it. Since positivism is natural, an individual would represent his behavior in the same way from being in the same environment perceiving the exact popular idea. The difference in religions is an example of social constructionism. The religions are created and people later come to agree. When more people gather, it becomes a group of people who believe in the same thing. The truth is varying from groups of people. Everybody in society would never view it the same way. Nevertheless, different opinions could create conflict in the society.

There is one scene where peers of Theon, Hypatia's father, asked him whether Hypatia is not going to get married. Theon stated that marriage would prevent Hypatia from doing what she loves like teaching, so he is not so supportive with the idea. His peers still argued that Hypatia should get married like other women do. It could be interpreted that getting married is the norm in that period of time. The idea is the critical paradigm. It influences people a lot that every woman must marry. Opposed to nowadays, it does not really matter to get married. The view on marriage should change now according to the current world's context. The change in the idea would be postmodernism. An individual has his own rights to discuss or debate. They might argue about the facts: Whose idea is it?, Whose experience it is?, Who says that?.

B) Hypatia, the lead character, is a very wise woman. She is eager to learn about maths, science, philosophy, and astronomy. She always analyzes and proves existing theories. The most mentioned theory in the movie is the law of planetary motion. People believed the Earth is the center of the universe. In excess of her passion for knowledge, Hypatia thought hard about the movements of planets that it might be different from what people currently recognize. She

initiated the movement of Earth and experimented it over and over with her loyal servant. Her method of finding the truth that the Earth is not the center of the universe and it orbits around the Sun is an experiment. At the very end of the movie, some Christian soldiers discussed whether the Earth is flat or round. Each of them has supportive arguments for their belief. Beliefs of people in ancient times is Positivism. The ontology is there is only one truth and the epistemology is the truth must be able to prove. Everyone perceived it the same way what they studied from classes, barely no debates.

Another point brought up in the movie is religion and conflict. People of different religions and beliefs used to live peacefully in the same city, but conflict arises and leads to religious war. The villagers originally worship Greek-Roman gods. Thereafter, the rise of a new religion, Christianity, influences Christians to call those who worship gods '*pagans*'. The conflict between two groups of people was getting bigger and eventually caused the first religious war. The so-called pagans started the war to get revenge for one of them who was injured from walking through the fire. The war ended with a large number of deaths and the places of pagans, including the library where it gathered great knowledge, were completely destroyed. Many years have passed on, Christianity became the powerful majority of the society. Christian soldiers made the situation tensed up again after they attacked Jews at the theatre. In the city, there was a big chaos. Many people were killed, no exception of women and children. Hypatia was finally witch hunted by the Christians. I would sum up that the paradigm of religious conflicts portrayed in the movie could be social constructionism that the truth is dynamic and individualism. Different people may see it in many different ways.

2.

A) 'Where to invade next' shows how various countries over the world raise the living standards of their population in many different perspectives. Moore interviewed executives from Lardini and Ducati, companies from Italy, about how they treat their workers. The executives are willing to let their employees enjoy the same leisure they have. He also had a chance to talk with an Italian married couple about work conditions. He was very surprised when he found out that every Italian obtains many-month paid holiday, honeymoon, and parental leave. More surprisingly, the workers enjoy two-hour lunch breaks. Most people will go home to have lunch with their family according to the culture. Everyone states that it is the labor rights the workers should receive and it enhances their well-being which results in better and higher productivity. Moore stopped to join lunch at one school in France and uncovered that school meals in France are highly nutritious. The state will make sure students get to consume the best meals possible. School chefs and related official workers would have regular meetings throughout the year discussing tentative school meals. Moreover, the schools are not a bit timid teaching students sex education. They view sex education as the basic knowledge everyone should know to prevent undesirable incidents. Moore travelled next to Finland where their education is known to be the best in the world. He chatted with Finnish students and the Minister of Education about the country's education system. Most high school students he talked to can speak more than two languages. He wondered how the education system works really well. In Finland, students will not be assigned homework and there are no multiple-choice tests or standardized tests. Without homework and extra free time after school, students can enjoy outside stuff they are interested in. Students who are stress-free can perform better in schools. In contrast to the United States, universities in Slovenia provide tuition-free courses for both local and foreign students. Students are debt-free and worry-free. Besides, University of Ljubljana offers more than 100 English-teaching courses.

Taking a look at lives in Germany. Moore visited Faber Castell factory where it produces high-quality pencils. The workers there are living extremely happy lives from appropriate treatments. All of them have good work-life balance. They take joy in free meals and great breaks at work. The recognized labor rights make them able to deliver high productivity. In

terms of historical education, the truth of Nazi Germany is not concealed. Students get taught about the incidents in schools. Germans think that it is something they could learn as life lessons. It therefore followed by the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. A lot of people came to destroy the Berlin Wall for nights to declare the standpoint of no more discrimination. Moving next to Portugal. No one will be arrested from doing or owning drugs in this country. Unlike many other countries, the officials believe getting rid of the penalty related to drugs will decrease the crime rate committed from drugs. They also get rid of death penalty because it is one of the human rights that no one should be executed. In addition, citizens obtain universal health care so that everyone can equally have access to health care.

Next, Moore paid a visit to two prisons in Norway, one minimum-security and one maximum security prison. At the maximum-security prison, prisoners have freedom to freely walk around, do anything they want to do, and eventually have separate bedrooms. Moore talked with one prisoner who was charged with the cause of murder. The prisoner is not restricted to use sharp objects such as knives, and so do others. In regards to prisoners' well-being, the warden told us that there is no right to restrict their freedom. The prisoners should be treated as human beings. Moore went to Tunisia, a country in North Africa. Tunisian women have greater women's rights unlike other Muslim countries. They can easily access reproductive health service, for example, birth control and abortion. The health care units offer services and commodities. Back in the old days, Tunisian women showed their power in the Tunisian Revolution and other important movements. They could persuade the state to drop wearing hijab is compulsory. Women should have their own rights to dress as they want. Continuously talking about women power, Moore had a chat with the world's first elected female president, Vigdis Finnbogadottir. Finnbogadottir paved the way for women in politics around the world. After her place in the office, more women play important roles in many countries' governments.

In my interpretation, the common definition of development should be a change in the positive way. Development involves more than just economic growth. It should focus on change that sustainably improves living standards of the population in the long run and does not destroy the surroundings. Development should result in a wider range of opportunities allowing people to

do things more freely and live their lives in better conditions without worrying about any constraint.

B) 'Development as freedom' would be best to explain the determinant of development level in each society in my opinion. Development is a process that expands opportunities for people to revel in. It should broaden an individual's ability to do something. Freedom depends on many determinants. For instance, people might approach education less effortly when they have affordability or they are more capable in getting a job after they complete education. To summarize, development must provide society with more freedom of choices.

C) I believe that development is conceivable without economic growth. Development could be referred to any aspects, not only limited to economic growth. For example, the rise in GDP of the country does reflect economic growth, but it neither improves or shows living standards of people. Many people might still get stuck in the poverty trap. They have to survive receiving subsistence wages. The government could raise living standards of people by providing basic facilities such as infrastructure and education. To illustrate, many people around the world cannot even access basic education because of sickness or affordability. If they are given primary health care, they could be healthy enough to attend the education system or do not have to worry about their finances if schools are made accessible. People who obtain education could live better lives through broader knowledge. Education could provide them greater opportunities in getting decent jobs or the right way to take care of themselves. Such development can occur without economic growth.

3. 'American Factory' took place at the Fuyao factory in Ohio, USA. The factory is owned by the Chinese billionaire and opened over General Motors which was shut down many years ago. At the current factory, there are both American employees and Chinese employees transferred from China.

Some Chinese employees are transferred from the mainland, according to Adam Smith's view, to train American workers in the area of production they are experted at. The company aims to have American workers get proper training within a limited time. The action is called specialization or division of labor. When a person is assigned to tasks he is familiar with, it creates efficiency by saving time and costs. Other employees are also hired to work specific tasks. However, Marx sees that division of labor would create class differences and destroy the unity. Conflict relatively occurs among employees. Chinese employees argue that they have to work more hours and receive lower average wages than American employees. One Chinese employee gave an interview that Chinese workers are paid the same amount they received back in China despite being in the States. Moreover, the managers seem unable to force American employees to work more. The local workers are not very satisfied with the company's actions, too. The company fired and did not pay workers who were injured from workplace accidents. Many workers struggled to survive due to lower wages than they used to receive while working for General Motors, the former plant. Some workers then went on strike and handed out flyers for others to join. A group of American workers at Fuyao factory, namely labor unions, became successful. They have enough power to negotiate with supervisors about wages and other conditions regarding their jobs. They could now earn wages and facilities they want. Karl Marx believes that workers should be united in order to fight against employers. Labor force should gather as labor unions to strengthen workers' power in negotiation. Nonetheless, Adam Smith argued that labor unions should remain illegal. To speak about technology in the Fuyao factory, it is highly advanced and is partly controlled by workers. The output is not 100% done by machines. All workers still need to work many hours. The technology in this factory here is very likely to Smith's theory where technological development should increase productivity, wages, and employment, but decrease the price. A lot of workers could get back to work and live their lives after the factory was abandoned years ago. What happens at Fuyao factory is contrary to

Marxist ideas. Even though Marx supports technological development, he supports it in the way that that labor should be substituted by machines which therefore will reduce working hours. The idea is opposed to what local workers expect to obtain.

4. Thailand was under the framework of absolute monarchy until the 1932 revolution. From the Siamese Revolution in 1932, Thailand obtained a democracy and lastly became a constitutional monarchy. Despite years following democracy acquisition, the country is known for political instability. Several times of coup d'etat appear in the historical timeline of Thailand. Political crises take place from time to time. Political instability has led to negative effects towards the country. The current generation are fighting for real democracy.

Siam, the former name of Thailand, was initially ruled under absolute monarchy. No one would dare to get involved with the monarchy. Anyhow, Pridi participated with Phibun to form a group of civilians and military, Khana Ratsadon, to plead democracy from King Prajadhipok after great domestic economic depression. King Prajadhipok, including the government, stepped down. The revolution introduced Siam to the democracy system. The first constitution of Thailand was granted. There is no sign that civilian-military cooperation would later turn into rivalry for the control over the government of Thailand. A lot of government officials live off corruption, negatively impacting society. The country has been under military dictatorships for various times throughout the past decades. According to the uprising of 14 October 1973, students assembled to protest against the military government of Thanom. The uprising marked the end of the anti-communist military dictatorship. Although violence from the protest resulted as many deaths of civilians, it developed influence on Thai people in politics. The other event related to politics in Thailand is the 6 October event in the next 3 years. Student protestors opposed the return to Thailand of a former military dictator, Thanom. The protest concluded with many deaths and injuries. Black May is another popular protest that took place in 1992. Up to two thousand people joined the protest. The incident resulted in deaths, injuries, and hundreds of disappearances.

The political movements mentioned above would never happen if individuals do not realize class conflict between them and the ruling government. As stated in the idea of class conflict by Karl Marx, the lower class will proceed for their rights once they become aware of their loss. The union would fight for a transformation by a revolution. Marx has two views of revolution: conflagration and permanent revolution. The first one occurs when the situation has reached its extreme point as in the context of 6 October, 14 October, and Black May incidents.

Civilians could not endure the actions of military governments so they demanded for a change. The revolution in the second view involves a coalition between the bourgeoisie and the proletariat. Once the coalition wins, they receive what they demand for. The scheme could be referred to the Siamese Revolution by Khana Ratsadorn which civilians and military cooperated to acquire democracy. The aim is to assure rights in political participation of the proletariat. Pridi supported labor unions to negotiate for employment and wages.

The uprising from class conflict does not harm the society. It drives the country in a better direction. Despite possible violence, development in various aspects can emerge and raise living standards of people. If leaders of the political incidents did not stand up against injustice, people nowadays would definitely have limited rights to speak out. People should come out with an opinion to let the development progress.