

Name: _____

Date: _____

QUIZ ANSWER KEY

MLA Handbook, Part 1

1. Circle the three central principles that should guide your use of MLA style:
(3 points)

Answers: a, c, and d. These three principles are found on pages 3-4 of the *MLA Handbook*.

2. The *MLA Handbook* is best described as being designed to help you do the following: (1 point)

Answer: b. This description is found on page 4 of the handbook.

3. What is plagiarism, and what makes it a serious offense? (2 points)

Answer: The student's answer is correct if it paraphrases the definition given on pages 6-7 of the eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook*: "Plagiarism is presenting another person's ideas, information, expressions, or entire work as one's own."

The answer is also correct if the student offers two or more of the following detailed points:

- plagiarism is dishonest (a "lie")
- plagiarism constitutes a type of theft
- plagiarism can be unintentional
- plagiarism applies even to a few words
- plagiarism applies to paraphrasing
- plagiarism includes reusing someone else's unpublished work
- plagiarism includes copying text from published sources without citing them
- plagiarism includes buying a paper and submitting it as one's own

4. What is common knowledge? (1 point)

Answer: As page 10 of the eighth edition of the handbook states, "Common knowledge includes information widely available in reference works, such as

basic bibliographical facts about prominent persons and the dates and circumstances of major historical events.”

5. Does common knowledge need to be documented? (1 point)

Answer: No. This answer can be found on page 10 of the handbook.

6. The handbook recommends that when you evaluate sources for your research, you consider who the author of the source is, what the source is, how the source was produced, where you found the source, and when the source was published. Please choose one of these elements to explain in greater detail. What does this element mean? (2 points)

Answer: Give students full credit for any thoughtful engagement with the topic. Acceptable answers should touch on at least one of the points raised on pages 11-12 of the eighth edition of the *MLA Handbook*.