# Malcolm X Movie Questions

## Multiple Choice

*Identify the choice that best completes the statement or answers the question.*

1. The movie opens in what city and era?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Omaha, “The Great Depression” |
| b. | New York City, “The Harlem Renaissance” |
| c. | Boston, “The War Years” |
| d. | Cairo, “The Post-War Boom” |

1. At the beginning of the movie, what is the main reason for Malcolm to go the barber shop?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | to get his hair cut |
| b. | to get his hair straightened |
| c. | to find his girlfriend |
| d. | to collect some money that the barber owed him |

1. Who “conks” Malcolm’s hair?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | his girlfriend, Sophia |
| b. | his friend, Shorty |
| c. | West Indian Archie |
| d. | Mr. Charlie |

1. The movie shows Malcolm and Shorty having fun ---.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | dancing. |
| b. | playing “cops and robbers” in the park. |
| c. | strutting in their fancy suits. |
| d. | all of the above |

1. What sorts of clothes does Malcolm like to wear during the war years?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | wildly colored suits with long coats and baggy pants |
| b. | conservative tailored suits in shades of gray |
| c. | soldier’s fatigues to show his sympathy with the war effort |
| d. | black shirts and trousers to represent the death of hope in America |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the Brooklyn Yankees game on T.V. |
| b. | the heavyweight championship on the radio |
| c. | the beautiful women waiting for them on the train platform |
| d. | the racism they had to deal with on a daily basis |

1. Why do the workers on the train yell at Malcolm?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | He isn’t careful enough about how he speaks to the white man who is their boss. |
| b. | He shoves a piece of lemon pie into a customer’s face. |
| c. | He lets the soup boil over and it ended up baked on all over the stove. |
| d. | He didn’t buy a ticket. |

match.

1. The heavyweight championship causes huge rejoicing in Harlem because --- won the boxing

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Muhammad Ali |
| b. | Malcolm X |
| c. | Joe Louis |
| d. | West Indian Archie |

1. Before going to prison, Malcolm works ---.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | on the railroad. |
| b. | in Harlem. |
| c. | collecting numbers from people. |
| d. | all of the above |

1. Where do people get the numbers they are telling Malcolm?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | from their paychecks |
| b. | from their scales |
| c. | from the Bible |
| d. | They go the numbers from all over the place. |

1. What happened to Malcolm X’s father?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | He died in World War II. |
| b. | He was shot by police during a prison riot. |
| c. | He was killed because of his political views. |
| d. | He went insane from racism he experienced. |

1. Malcolm works as a numbers runner in , a black neighborhood of New York City.

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| --- | --- |
| a. | Long Island |
| b. | Brooklyn |
| c. | Harlem |
| d. | the Bronx |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Harlem, New York |
| b. | Omaha, Nebraska |
| c. | Chicago, Illinois |
| d. | Miami, Florida |

1. What did Malcolm X say he wanted to be when he grew up?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | teacher |
| b. | fireman |
| c. | lawyer |
| d. | policeman |

1. Who told Malcolm blacks couldn’t be lawyers?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | his teacher |
| b. | his mother |
| c. | his father |
| d. | a judge |

1. What job did Malcolm’s teacher suggest he do instead?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | railroad waiter |
| b. | train engineer |
| c. | plumber |
| d. | carpenter |

1. What sort of job did Malcolm’s father have?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | preacher |
| b. | gambler |
| c. | farmer |
| d. | writer |

1. The main political message that Malcolm’s father attempted to spread thorugh the black communities where he preached involved

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| --- | --- |
| a. | obedience to lawful authority. |
| b. | a return to Africa. |
| c. | using lawsuits to force an end to white racism. |
| d. | job training so blacks could “prove” themselves worthy of civil rights. |

1. From Malcolm’s comments about his mother, we can deduce that

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| --- | --- |
| a. | she was half white. |
| b. | she used to be a teacher. |
| c. | she had married a minister but was not religious herself. |
| d. | she did not care very much about her children. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | was an only child |
| b. | never knew his mother |
| c. | had a lot of siblings |
| d. | had only one brother |

1. How did Malcolm’s mother end up very poor?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | Her husband refused to pay his child support. |
| b. | She did not know how to follow a budget. |
| c. | She was an alcoholic and a gambler. |
| d. | The insurance company refused to pay when her husband died. |

1. Malcolm’s views toward the government were likely influenced by his childhood memories of

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the judge who sentenced his father to prison. |
| b. | the social worker who broke up his family. |
| c. | the police chief who charged him with truancy. |
| d. | the Senator who denied him entrance to the University of Nebraska. |

1. What does Malcolm do to impress West Indian Archie?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | He never wrote down a single number. |
| b. | He bashed a rude man over the head. |
| c. | He rescued his girlfriend from a life of prostitution. |
| d. | He wrote to political leaders and explained the Nation of Islam to them. |

1. What does West Indian Archie change about Malcolm?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the way he dressed |
| b. | the way he spoke to people |
| c. | the kinds of women he dated |
| d. | the kind of music he listened to |

1. Malcolm believed that Archie could have been a mathematical genius. His reason for thinking this was the fact that

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Archie always knew what number was going to hit. |
| b. | Archie had been forced by hard times to abandon his college math studies. |
| c. | Archie knew the multiplication tables up through 42. |
| d. | Archie never wrote down a number. |

1. What causes the argument between Malcolm and Archie?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | Malcolm started dating Archie’s wife. |
| b. | Cadillac kept telling Archie that Malcolm was writing numbers down. |
| c. | Malcolm made a bet that Archie forgot about. |
| d. | Malcolm gave the police inside information about Archie. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | back to Omaha |
| b. | back to Boston |
| c. | to San Francisco to make a new start |
| d. | He didn’t go anywhere -- he stayed in Harlem |

1. How does Malcolm establish his control of the crime gang he helps form?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | He shows them that he has the longest criminal record. |
| b. | He demonstrates to the others that he is the one with the most education. |
| c. | He plays Russian Roulette to prove he isn’t afraid to die. |
| d. | He pushes the people who disagree with him out of windows. |

1. When Malcolm goes to prison, it’s because he’s been convicted of ---.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | arson |
| b. | burglary |
| c. | battery |
| d. | rape |

1. Malcolm claims that his “real” crime, however, was ---.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | calling the judge a “white devil” |
| b. | converting to Islam |
| c. | sleeping with white women |
| d. | refusing to bribe the prosecutor |

1. Why does Shorty faint during sentencing?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | He doesn’t know what *concurrent* means. |
| b. | He recognizes that the judge is his long-lost brother. |
| c. | He didn’t expected to get any prison time. |
| d. | He’d been on a hunger strike for several days. |

1. Why is Malcolm put in solitary confinement?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | He refused to eat the prison’s “unclean” food. |
| b. | He got in a fight. |
| c. | He refused to say his prisoner number. |
| d. | He called the guard “Whitey.” |

1. Who visits Malcolm’s cell when he has troubles adjusting to prison life?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | Baines |
| b. | his mother |
| c. | the prison chaplain |
| d. | the judge |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Satan |
| b. | Blackie |
| c. | Big X |
| d. | Joe |

1. What did Baines do with the nutmeg?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | He uses it to make himself sneeze so he can go to the prison infirmary. |
| b. | He gives it to Malcolm as a sort of drug substitute. |
| c. | He puts it in the banana bread he makes for Malcolm as a “welcome to the Nation of Islam” present. |
| d. | He sprinkles it over his shoulder because he is superstitious. |

1. What is Baines’ attitude towards white people?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | A few of them are evil. |
| b. | Most of them are evil. |
| c. | Every single one of them is evil. |
| d. | None of them are evil. |

1. What is the main source of the ideas that Baines taught Malcolm while they were both in prison?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | the Koran |
| b. | the Bible and the Koran |
| c. | the newspaper *Muhammad Speaks* |
| d. | the Honorable Elijah Muhammad |

1. What is Baines’ attitude toward Jackie Robinson, the black baseball player hired by the Brooklyn Dodgers?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | He hates the press Robinson is getting because Robinson isn’t a Muslim. |
| b. | He thinks it was a huge step forward for the black man in America. |
| c. | He doesn’t believe that the news was even true. |
| d. | He thinks it hardly makes up for hundreds of years of racism. |

1. Which Muslim teaching reminds Malcolm of things he learned from his mother?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the prohibition against pork |
| b. | the warnings against drugs and alcohol |
| c. | the prohibition against white women |
| d. | the warnings against cigarettes |

1. What does Baines claim about pigs?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | They are forbidden because the animal is of European origin. |
| b. | They are a mixture of cat, dog, and rat. |
| c. | Muslims and Jews agree about not eating them. |
| d. | In actual fact, eating them is not completely forbidden for Muslims. |

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| --- | --- |
| a. | *I Was Once as You Are Now,* by Elijah Muhammad |
| b. | the Bible |
| c. | the encyclopedia |

d.

the dictionary

1. What does Malcolm find to be the hardest part of becoming a Muslim?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | giving up drugs and alcohol |
| b. | sexual purity |
| c. | kneeling in prayer |
| d. | washing his feet several times a day |

1. When does Malcolm convert to Islam?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | while in prison |
| b. | before he goes to prison |
| c. | immediately after being released from prison |
| d. | on his deathbed |

1. What does the Bible-study class demonstrate about Malcolm?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | He has become a skilled debater. |
| b. | He is serious about his Christian faith. |
| c. | He has become friends with the pastor. |
| d. | He will only attend social activities with black people. |

1. How does Malcolm’s hair change after he joined the Nation of Islam?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | He let it grow long. |
| b. | He had it cut off very short. |
| c. | He applied treatments to it to get rid of the “conk” (straightening) he’d previously applied. |
| d. | By that time, he was completely bald. |

1. What was Malcolm X’s original last name?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | Stuart |
| b. | Little |
| c. | King |
| d. | Anderson |

1. Why does Malcolm adopt an X for his last name?

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| --- | --- |
| a. | He was so severly beaten in prison that he couldn’t remember his own name. |
| b. | All prison inmates were known as first name + X. |
| c. | It was the closest he could come to adopting the symbol of the cross for his last name. |
| d. | X represents the fact that he cannot know his original African family name. |

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| --- | --- |
| a. | the apostle Paul |
| b. | Jesus Christ |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| c. | Elijah Muhammad |
| d. | Allah |

1. When Malcolm gets out of prison and meets Elijah Muhammad, he is told a story about a man who had the “fences” protecting him removed, but remained faithful to God. Who is the story about?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Baines |
| b. | Job |
| c. | Elijah Muhammad himself |
| d. | Adam |

1. The movie shows Malcolm talking to people, trying to convert them to Islam, when they leave

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | church. |
| b. | supermarkets. |
| c. | gas stations. |
| d. | police stations. |

1. What does Betty say that Harriet Tubman did in between escorting escaped slaves North “to the promised land?”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | pray |
| b. | eat |
| c. | read the Bible |
| d. | hide |

1. How does Malcolm propose marriage to Betty?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | in person |
| b. | by letter |
| c. | by having a friend ask for him |
| d. | on the phone |

1. Malcolm is busy planting new temples, but he takes time off for his wedding. How long is his honeymoon?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | less than one day |
| b. | three days |
| c. | almost a week |
| d. | two weeks |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | “Better to be dashed on the sea and scattered than land at Plymouth Rock as the pilgrims did!” |
| b. | “The day the Mayflower landed on Plymouth Rock was a sad, sad day for our people.” |
| c. | “We didn’t land on Plymouth Rock; Plymouth Rock landed on us!” |
| d. | He made no mention of Plymouth Rock in his speeches. |

1. What does Malcolm X say about the seals on liquor bottles?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | That there is no point to them as they don’t keep people from opening the bottle. |
| b. | That they are government seals. |
| c. | That they are there to remind Muslims to leave liquor alone. |
| d. | That it is Muslim tradition to save the seals and offer them to Allah. |

1. Malcolm X talked mainly about what in his speeches?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | blacks being racist |
| b. | black nationalism |
| c. | becoming the first black president |
| d. | the white power movement |

1. What disturbing news does Malcolm learn about Elijah Muhammad?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | He is actually a white man. |
| b. | He has been stealing money from the Nation of Islam. |
| c. | He is a secret alcoholic. |
| d. | He is involved in sexual scandals. |

1. What reaction does Malcolm have to the disturbing revelations about Elijah Muhammad?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | He researches the lives of other great men who sinned. |
| b. | He goes to talk to Baines. |
| c. | He goes to talk to the women making accusations against Muhammad. |
| d. | Malcolm does all of the above. |

1. What does Baines’ son tell Malcolm he was asked to do?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | put a bomb in Malcolm’s car |
| b. | set fire to Malcolm’s house |
| c. | get Malcolm drunk |
| d. | bug Malcolm’s phone |

1. What finally happened to Malcolm’s mother?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | She was killed in a race riot. |
| b. | She was committed to an insane asylum. |
| c. | She moved to Paris. |
| d. | She became a Muslim. |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. |
| b. | JFK |
| c. | FDR |
| d. | RFK |

1. When Malcolm commented on Kennedy’s assassination, he was suspended for how many days?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | 30 |
| b. | 60 |
| c. | 90 |
| d. | 120 |

1. Where does Malcolm travel in order to learn more about Islam as it is practiced by hundreds of millions of Muslims worldwide?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Paris |
| b. | Istanbul |
| c. | Mecca |
| d. | Tehran |

1. What does Malcolm tell his Arab guides that he wanted to see?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | the pyramids |
| b. | Cleopatra’s tomb |
| c. | mummies |
| d. | the places where Mohammad walked |

1. What is Malcolm’s comment about racism after he had gone on pilgrimage?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | He said that racism did not exist. |
| b. | He said that he was not a racist. |
| c. | He said that world Islam was a racist religion. |
| d. | He made no comment about racism. |

1. When the car-bombing plan doesn’t work out, what sort of attack on Malcolm is carried out?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | His house was set on fire. |
| b. | He was run over by a car. |
| c. | He was shoved in front of a subway train. |
| d. | He had acid thrown in his face. |

1. How does Malcolm X die?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | suicide |
| b. | flu |
| c. | old age |
| d. | assassination |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | a white senator outraged by the militancy of the Nation of Islam |
| b. | his own father |
| c. | members of a black Muslim group |
| d. | athiests trying to make a point about religion |

1. Who is there when Malcolm gets killed?

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Shorty |
| b. | Betty |
| c. | Sophia |
| d. | West Indian Archie |

1. Which civil rights leader said that they would make improvements “by any means necessary?”

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| a. | Dr. King |
| b. | Malcolm X |
| c. | Mohammad Ali |
| d. | A. Philip Randolph |

# Malcolm X Movie Questions

**Answer Section**

## MULTIPLE CHOICE

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 1. ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 2. ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 3. ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 4. ANS: | D | PTS: | 1 |
| 5. ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 6. ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 7. ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 8. ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 9. ANS: | D | PTS: | 1 |
| 10. ANS: | D | PTS: | 1 |
| 11. ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 12. ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 13. ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 14. ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 15. ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 16. ANS: | D | PTS: | 1 |
| 17. ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 18. ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 19. ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 20. ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 22. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 23. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 24. | ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 25. | ANS: | D | PTS: | 1 |
| 26. | ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 27. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 28. | ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 29. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 30. | ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 31. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 32. | ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 33. | ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 34. | ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 35. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 36. | ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 37. | ANS: | D | PTS: | 1 |
| 38. | ANS: | D | PTS: | 1 |
| 39. | ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 40. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 41. | ANS: | D | PTS: | 1 |
| 42. | ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 43. | ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 44. | ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 45. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 46. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 47. | ANS: | D | PTS: | 1 |
| 48. | ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 49. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 50. | ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 51. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 52. | ANS: | D | PTS: | 1 |
| 53. | ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 54. | ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 55. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 56. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 57. | ANS: | D | PTS: | 1 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 59. | ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 60. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 61. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 62. | ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 63. | ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 64. | ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 65. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 66. | ANS: | A | PTS: | 1 |
| 67. | ANS: | D | PTS: | 1 |
| 68. | ANS: | C | PTS: | 1 |
| 69. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |
| 70. | ANS: | B | PTS: | 1 |