



# KANYE WEST

*Music, Identity, and Controversy — The Most Discussed Artist of His Generation*

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_



*A packed concert venue — for two decades, Kanye West's performances, albums, and public statements have dominated cultural conversation far beyond the music industry*

## PART 1 — Key Vocabulary

Study these terms carefully. They appear throughout the reading passages and exercises below.

Term	Definition
<i>discography</i>	the complete body of recorded musical works produced by an artist or group, encompassing studio albums, EPs, singles, and collaborative projects across their entire career
<i>sampling</i>	the practice of extracting a segment of an existing sound recording — a melody, drum pattern, vocal phrase, or instrumental passage — and incorporating it into a new composition, typically in altered or restructured form
<i>auteur</i>	an artist — a term originally applied to film directors — who exercises total creative control over a body of work, infusing it with a consistently recognisable personal vision, aesthetic, and thematic preoccupation
<i>iconoclast</i>	a person who challenges, subverts, or openly rejects established conventions, institutions, and expectations — often through provocative behaviour, unconventional creative choices, or deliberate confrontation with authority
<i>accolade</i>	a formal award, honour, or expression of praise bestowed in recognition of outstanding achievement or merit — for example, a Grammy Award, critical review, or industry distinction
<i>prolific</i>	

producing a large volume of creative work — often across multiple disciplines or within a compressed period of time — with consistent output and energy

***persona***

the carefully constructed public identity or character that a performer projects to audiences and the media, which may differ significantly — sometimes deliberately — from their private personality and lived experience

***bipolar disorder***

a mental health condition characterised by alternating episodes of mania — elevated mood, reduced need for sleep, heightened energy, and impulsive decision-making — and depression, marked by persistent low mood and loss of motivation

***defamation***

the act of making false statements about an individual that cause measurable damage to their reputation — whether communicated verbally (slander) or in written or published form (libel)

***antisemitism***

hostility, prejudice, and discrimination directed against Jewish people on the basis of their religion, ethnicity, or cultural identity — one of the oldest and most persistent forms of organised hatred in recorded history

***hiatus***

a temporary pause, absence, or interruption in an otherwise ongoing activity, career, or creative output — often undertaken voluntarily for personal, creative, or health-related reasons

***zeitgeist***

the defining cultural mood, intellectual spirit, and prevailing set of values characteristic of a particular historical moment or generation — from the German for 'time spirit'

## **PART 2 — Vocabulary Practice**

Match each term on the left to its correct definition on the right.

1. discography
2. auteur
3. iconoclast
4. sampling
5. persona
6. zeitgeist
7. accolade

- A. an award or expression of praise recognising outstanding achievement or merit
- B. the complete body of recorded musical works produced by an artist across their career
- C. the defining cultural mood and values characteristic of a particular historical moment
- D. the practice of incorporating segments of existing recordings into a new composition
- E. the public identity or character a performer consciously constructs and projects to audiences
- F. an artist who exercises total creative control over their work, expressing a unified personal vision
- G. a person who challenges or rejects established conventions and expectations, often provocatively

**Fill in the blank with the correct vocabulary word.**

1. Kanye's aggressive use of \_\_\_\_\_ — lifting soul melodies and transforming them into new compositions — helped define the sonic character of early 2000s hip-hop and drew widespread attention to the legal and creative questions surrounding musical borrowing.
2. Despite his \_\_\_\_\_ output — releasing multiple studio albums, film projects, fashion collections, and collaborative records across a fifteen-year period — each release was treated as a major cultural event rather than routine product.
3. The Grammy Award is the most prestigious \_\_\_\_\_ in the American music industry, and Kanye West received twenty-four of them before his business relationships collapsed in the wake of public controversy.
4. Kanye's public \_\_\_\_\_ has shifted dramatically across his career — from the self-deprecating college dropout of his early albums to the self-proclaimed genius and messianic figure of his later public statements.
5. Kanye was diagnosed with \_\_\_\_\_, a condition he has spoken about publicly — attributing some of his most impulsive public behaviour to manic episodes, while also crediting the condition with aspects of his creative intensity.
6. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the early 2000s in American music was shaped in part by hip-hop's transformation from street music to the dominant commercial and critical force in popular culture — a transformation to which Kanye West made one of its most visible contributions.



A professional recording studio — Kanye West began his career producing beats for other artists before recording his own vocals, an unconventional path that shaped his highly self-referential songwriting style

## PART 3 — Reading Passage 1: The Making of Kanye West

### The Producer from Chicago

Kanye Omari West was born on 8 June 1977 in Atlanta, Georgia, and raised on the South Side of Chicago, Illinois — a city whose musical history in gospel, blues, and house music would leave a permanent mark on his aesthetic sensibility. He began producing beats in his teens and by his early twenties had established himself as one of the most sought-after producers in hip-hop, creating the sonic framework for Jay-Z's landmark 2001 album *The Blueprint* — a record widely credited with redefining the commercial and artistic possibilities of mainstream rap. West's production style at this stage was built around a technique he popularised known as soul sampling: taking vocal or instrumental passages from classic soul recordings and pitching them upward, creating a warm, melodic texture that distinguished his work from the harder, more aggressive sounds dominant in the genre at the time.

Despite his considerable reputation as a producer, the major labels were initially reluctant to sign West as a recording artist. The prevailing industry assumption was that hip-hop required artists to project an image of physical toughness and street credibility — a persona that West, the college-educated son of a university professor and a retired English teacher, did not readily inhabit. He persisted regardless, and in 2004 released *The College Dropout* on Roc-A-Fella Records. The album was recorded partly in the aftermath of a near-fatal car accident in October 2002, and its lead single, 'Through the Wire' — performed with his jaw wired shut following reconstructive surgery — became a statement of artistic defiance as much as personal survival. *The College Dropout* debuted at number two on the Billboard 200 and sold over 441,000 copies in its first week, earning West ten Grammy nominations and establishing him as one of the most significant new voices in American popular music.

### Reinvention and the Auteur's Vision

What distinguished Kanye West from the vast majority of commercially successful musicians was not merely the quality of his debut but his sustained commitment to creative reinvention. Each successive album represented a deliberate departure from the last — not evolution within a familiar style but a fundamental renegotiation of genre, instrumentation, and emotional register. *Late Registration* (2005) expanded the orchestral palette of its predecessor; *Graduation* (2007) moved decisively toward synthesizers and stadium-scale anthems, influenced by European electronic music. *808s & Heartbreak* (2008) — released shortly after the death of his mother, Donda West, and the end of a long-term

relationship — stripped the arrangements to bare electronics and processed, Auto-Tuned vocals, producing a record of sparse emotional desolation that influenced an entire generation of artists who subsequently blended singing and rapping. Drake, Frank Ocean, Kid Cudi, and The Weeknd have all cited *808s* as a foundational influence on their own approaches.

The artistic pinnacle of his first decade was widely regarded as *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* (2010), released after a period of public disgrace following his interruption of Taylor Swift's acceptance speech at the 2009 MTV Video Music Awards. The album was a maximalist statement of wounded grandiosity — dense with orchestral arrangements, guest performances from Nicki Minaj, Jay-Z, and Rick Ross, and a unifying meditation on fame, excess, and self-destruction. *Pitchfork* awarded it a rare perfect score of 10.0; it appeared on the cover of *Rolling Stone*, and critics across publications consistently placed it among the greatest albums of the twenty-first century. It demonstrated that West was not simply a talented musician but a genuine auteur — an artist whose personal biography, aesthetic vision, and cultural context were inseparable from the work itself.

## Later Work and the Question of Legacy

West's subsequent discography continued to generate intense critical and commercial attention, though with diminishing consensus. *Yeezus* (2013) was abrasive, confrontational, and largely stripped of conventional melodic pleasure — a deliberate provocation that divided critics sharply. *The Life of Pablo* (2016) was released in a state of deliberate incompleteness and repeatedly updated after publication, challenging the very definition of what a finished album could mean in the streaming era. *Donda* (2021), named after his late mother, was delayed repeatedly over two years before a chaotic release — yet still debuted at number one in multiple countries. His prolific output and consistent commercial and critical relevance across twenty years made him one of the most significant artists in the history of recorded music — a status that the events of 2022 would place under unprecedented strain.

### Comprehension Questions — Passage 1

1. Why were record labels initially reluctant to sign Kanye West as a recording artist, and how did he respond?

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2. What was Kanye's 'soul sampling' technique and why was it distinctive?

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3. In what specific ways does the passage describe Kanye West as an 'auteur'? Use evidence from the text.

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4. What was the critical and commercial reception of *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy*, and why does the passage call it "the artistic pinnacle of his first decade"?

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5. How did the personal context in which *808s & Heartbreak* was made affect the album's sound and subject matter?

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6. What does the passage suggest about Kanye's approach to the concept of a "finished" album? Refer to a specific example.

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## PART 4 — Reading Passage 2: The Business Empire, Mental Health, and Public Controversy



*High fashion and streetwear converged in the Yeezy brand — at its peak, the Adidas Yeezy partnership was estimated to generate over \$1.5 billion in annual revenue, making it one of the most commercially successful celebrity fashion collaborations in history*

### Building the Yeezy Empire

Kanye West's ambitions extended far beyond music. Inspired by his mother's academic background and his own sustained engagement with visual art, architecture, and fashion, he positioned himself throughout the 2010s as a designer and entrepreneur of equal seriousness to his musical identity. His Yeezy brand, developed in partnership with Adidas from 2015, became one of the most commercially successful collaborations in the history of the sportswear industry. The Yeezy Boost 350 trainer — characterised by its distinctive knitted upper, muted earth-tone colourways, and deliberately limited release strategy — generated queues outside retailers across the world and a secondary resale market in which individual pairs routinely sold for multiples of their retail price. At its peak, the Adidas-Yeezy partnership was estimated to generate over \$1.5 billion in annual revenue. West also entered into agreements with Gap — the American clothing retailer — and Balenciaga, the French luxury fashion house, creating a vertically integrated fashion presence spanning mass-market sportswear, high-street basics, and luxury couture simultaneously.

His commercial success gave him a platform and a degree of economic independence that few artists in any genre had previously achieved. He used it aggressively — demanding creative control over all product decisions, publicly criticising business partners who failed to meet his standards, and articulating an explicit ambition to become the wealthiest Black man in American history. Whether this

ambition was admirable self-determination or hubristic overreach was a question that divided commentators sharply and would become considerably more complex after 2022.

## **Mental Health and the Public Stage**

In November 2016, Kanye West was hospitalised at the UCLA Medical Centre following what his representatives described as a psychiatric emergency — a period of erratic public behaviour that had alarmed his associates and the broader public. The following year, he disclosed publicly that he had been diagnosed with bipolar disorder. The disclosure was received by many with a degree of sympathy: the manic episodes associated with his condition — characterised by extreme energy, grandiose ideation, reduced sleep, and impulsive decision-making — seemed, in retrospect, to explain a pattern of public behaviour that had been widely described as erratic, offensive, or simply bizarre. At the same time, mental health advocates cautioned against using the diagnosis as a comprehensive explanation for statements and actions that also warranted evaluation as straightforwardly offensive or dangerous regardless of their psychological context.

West himself expressed ambivalence about his diagnosis and about the medication prescribed to treat it, stating in interviews that the pharmaceutical treatment dulled the creative intensity he associated with his manic states. This ambivalence — and the episodes of apparent non-compliance with treatment it implied — became a recurring source of concern for those close to him and a recurring subject of public speculation. The tension between respecting a public figure's right to manage their own mental health on their own terms and acknowledging the real-world consequences of untreated mania for those around them was one that the Kanye West story brought into unusually sharp focus.

## **The 2022 Controversy and Its Aftermath**

In October 2022, Kanye West made a series of statements — on social media, in interviews, and at public appearances — that were widely condemned as explicitly antisemitic. He claimed, among other assertions, that Jewish people held disproportionate control over the media, the music industry, and the political establishment — statements that reproduced classic antisemitic conspiracy theories with minimal qualification. The response from the business community was swift and decisive. Adidas terminated its Yeezy partnership, costing West an estimated \$1.5 billion in future revenue and a significant portion of a net worth that *Forbes* had previously estimated at approximately \$2 billion. Gap and Balenciaga ended their agreements with his companies. His talent agency, CAA, dropped him. Several concert promoters cancelled scheduled performances. The cumulative financial impact of the controversy was described by business analysts as among the most rapid collapses of a celebrity commercial empire in the modern era.

Legal consequences followed. Lawsuits were filed by former employees alleging a workplace culture of harassment and hostility. Defamation claims were initiated by individuals who said West had made false and damaging statements about them in public forums. The question that the controversy most insistently raised — and which had no comfortable answer — was whether the antisemitic statements were products of untreated mental illness, genuine expressions of deeply held belief, or some combination of both that made them simultaneously more explicable and no less harmful. West offered apologies that many commentators considered insufficient and intermittently recanted them. By 2024, he remained a figure of profound cultural ambivalence — an artist whose musical achievements were

beyond serious dispute and whose public conduct had made the straightforward celebration of those achievements nearly impossible.

## True or False

Write **T** for True or **F** for False.

1. \_\_\_ Kanye West produced Jay-Z's *The Blueprint* before releasing his own debut album.
2. \_\_\_ *The College Dropout* debuted at number one on the Billboard 200.
3. \_\_\_ *808s & Heartbreak* was released after the death of Kanye's mother and the end of a long-term relationship.
4. \_\_\_ *Pitchfork* awarded *My Beautiful Dark Twisted Fantasy* a perfect score of 10.0.
5. \_\_\_ At its peak, the Adidas-Yeezy partnership generated an estimated \$500 million in annual revenue.
6. \_\_\_ Kanye West was hospitalised in November 2016 and later publicly disclosed a diagnosis of bipolar disorder.
7. \_\_\_ Adidas terminated its Yeezy partnership following West's antisemitic statements in 2022.
8. \_\_\_ The passage suggests that West's antisemitic statements can be fully explained by his bipolar disorder diagnosis.

## Comprehension Questions — Passage 2

1. How does the passage describe the commercial significance of the Adidas-Yeezy partnership? What made the Yeezy brand unusual in the fashion industry?

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2. What ambivalence did West express about his bipolar disorder treatment, and why did this concern those around him?

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3. How does the passage describe the business consequences of the 2022 controversy? Name at least three specific outcomes.

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4. What tension does the passage identify regarding mental health as an explanation for West's antisemitic statements?

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5. What does the passage mean by describing West as "a figure of profound cultural ambivalence" by 2024?

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## PART 5 — Fill in the Blank

Use the word bank to complete each sentence. Use each word only once.

discography · sampling · auteur · iconoclast · accolade · prolific · persona · bipolar disorder · defamation · antisemitism · hiatus · zeitgeist

1. The Grammy Award is the music industry's most coveted \_\_\_\_\_, and West's twenty-four wins across multiple categories reflect the breadth of his artistic and commercial impact over two decades.
2. West's use of \_\_\_\_\_ in the early 2000s went beyond technical skill — he approached existing recordings as raw material to be deconstructed and reimagined rather than simply borrowed.
3. Few artists in hip-hop history have been as \_\_\_\_\_ as West: in a single year he might release a studio album, produce records for other artists, design a fashion collection, and deliver a major public lecture on creativity.
4. As a genuine \_\_\_\_\_, West insisted that every element of his albums — from the artwork to the packaging to the theatrical live presentation — reflect a unified creative vision rather than a collection of individually successful tracks.
5. An \_\_\_\_\_ almost by instinct, West publicly challenged the fashion industry's gatekeepers, the music business's commercial logic, and, increasingly, the boundaries of acceptable public discourse.
6. West's \_\_\_\_\_ diagnosis explained, for many observers, the pattern of manic episodes, impulsive decision-making, and grandiose public pronouncements that had characterised his public life since at least 2009.
7. \_\_\_\_\_ — hostility and prejudice directed against Jewish people — has a long and destructive history; West's statements in 2022 were widely condemned precisely because they reproduced its most persistent and dangerous tropes.
8. The \_\_\_\_\_ of the 2000s in American music was shaped significantly by hip-hop's ascent — and within that ascent, few individual voices were more consequential than the South Side Chicago producer who insisted on rapping over his own beats.

## PART 6 — Discussion Questions

Discuss with a partner or your class. There are no wrong answers — support your view with reasoning and examples.

1. The passage describes Kanye West as both a musical auteur of the highest order and someone who made explicitly antisemitic public statements. Should these two facts be treated separately — or does one inevitably affect how we should understand the other? Is it possible to recognise great art while also condemning the artist who created it?
2. West publicly disclosed his bipolar disorder and attributed some of his public behaviour to manic episodes. Do you think a public figure's mental health diagnosis should influence how they are judged for their public statements and actions — and if so, to what degree? Where is the line between explanation and excuse?
3. The Adidas-Yeezy partnership collapsed almost immediately after West's antisemitic statements, costing him an estimated \$1.5 billion. Do you think corporations have a moral responsibility to terminate relationships with public figures who make offensive statements — or does this give businesses too much power over public discourse? Who decides what crosses the line?
4. West's soul-sampling technique was foundational to his early success — yet sampling requires taking from another artist's work, often without their involvement in the new creation. Is sampling a legitimate form of artistic creativity, or is it fundamentally an act of appropriation? Does it matter whether the original artist consented or was paid?
5. The passage describes West as someone whose musical legacy is "beyond serious dispute" but whose conduct made "straightforward celebration" of that legacy "nearly impossible." Do you agree with this assessment? In your opinion, what should cultural memory do with artists whose work and personal lives are in profound conflict?



# ANSWER KEY — KANYE WEST

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## Part 2 — Vocabulary Matching

1. B — the complete body of recorded musical works produced by an artist across their career
2. F — an artist who exercises total creative control over their work, expressing a unified personal vision
3. G — a person who challenges or rejects established conventions and expectations, often provocatively
4. D — the practice of incorporating segments of existing recordings into a new composition
5. E — the public identity or character a performer consciously constructs and projects to audiences
6. C — the defining cultural mood and values characteristic of a particular historical moment
7. A — an award or expression of praise recognising outstanding achievement or merit

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## Part 2 — Fill in the Blank

1. sampling
2. prolific
3. accolade
4. persona
5. bipolar disorder
6. zeitgeist

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## Part 3 — Comprehension: Passage 1

1. Labels assumed hip-hop artists needed street credibility and a tough persona — which West, the college-educated son of a professor, did not project. He persisted regardless, recording "Through the Wire" with his jaw wired shut after a car accident and releasing *The College Dropout* in 2004.
2. Soul sampling involved extracting vocal or instrumental passages from classic soul recordings and pitching them upward, creating a warm, melodic texture that was distinctly warmer and more melodic than the harder sounds dominant in hip-hop at the time.
3. The passage calls him an auteur because his personal biography, aesthetic vision, and cultural context were inseparable from the work itself — and because each album represented a fundamental renegotiation of genre and form rather than evolution within a familiar style.
4. *MBDTF* received a perfect 10.0 from Pitchfork and appeared on the cover of *Rolling Stone*. It is called the artistic pinnacle because it synthesised all his preceding work into a maximalist statement of wounded grandiosity that critics placed among the greatest albums of the 21st century.
5. It was released after the death of his mother, Donda West, and the end of a long relationship. The album's bare electronic arrangements and Auto-Tuned vocals reflected this emotional desolation — producing a record of sparse grief that influenced Drake, Frank Ocean, Kid Cudi, and The Weeknd.
6. *The Life of Pablo* (2016) was released in a state of deliberate incompleteness and repeatedly updated after publication — challenging the definition of a finished album in the streaming era.

## Part 4 — True or False

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1. T — he produced *The Blueprint* (2001) before *The College Dropout* (2004).
2. F — it debuted at number two on the *Billboard* 200.
3. T — his mother died and a long-term relationship ended before its release.
4. T — Pitchfork awarded it a rare perfect 10.0.
5. F — the passage states over \$1.5 billion in annual revenue at its peak, not \$500 million.
6. T — hospitalised November 2016; disclosed bipolar disorder diagnosis the following year.
7. T — Adidas terminated the partnership following his 2022 antisemitic statements.
8. F — the passage explicitly states that mental health context does not make the statements less harmful and does not fully explain them.

## Part 4 — Comprehension: Passage 2

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1. The partnership generated over \$1.5 billion in annual revenue at its peak. The Yeezy brand was unusual because it combined deliberately limited release strategy with a distinctive aesthetic, creating enormous secondary-market demand and queues across the world.
2. West said medication dulled the creative intensity associated with his manic states, expressing ambivalence about treatment. This concerned those around him because periods of apparent non-compliance resulted in erratic, impulsive, and offensive public behaviour.
3. Any three: Adidas terminated the Yeezy partnership (costing ~\$1.5B); Gap ended its agreement; Balenciaga ended its agreement; CAA dropped him; concert promoters cancelled performances; defamation lawsuits were filed; employee lawsuits were filed.
4. Mental health advocates noted that diagnosing him as mentally ill could be used to excuse statements that were harmful regardless of their psychological origin — the tension being that mania may explain impulsive behaviour but does not make antisemitic conspiracy theories less dangerous or false.
5. His musical achievements are acknowledged as exceptional and beyond dispute, yet his public conduct — particularly the antisemitic statements — makes it impossible to discuss him without also discussing the harm he caused, creating an irresolvable tension between celebrating his art and condemning his actions.
6. Lawsuits from former employees alleging workplace harassment and hostility; defamation claims from individuals West had made false and damaging public statements about.

## Part 5 — Fill in the Blank

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1. accolade
2. sampling
3. prolific
4. auteur
5. iconoclast
6. bipolar disorder
7. antisemitism
8. zeitgeist

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# STUDENT ANSWER SHEET

Kanye West — Music, Identity, and Controversy

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Class: \_\_\_\_\_

Record all answers below. For Parts 6 and 7, use the space on your main worksheet.

## PART 2A — Vocabulary Matching (write the letter)

1. _____	2. _____	3. _____	4. _____	5. _____	6. _____	7. _____
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## PART 2B — Fill in the Blank

1. _____	4. _____
2. _____	5. _____
3. _____	6. _____

## PART 3 — Comprehension: Passage 1

1. _____	4. _____
2. _____	5. _____
3. _____	6. _____

## PART 4 — True or False (circle T or F)

1. T / F	2. T / F	3. T / F	4. T / F
5. T / F	6. T / F	7. T / F	8. T / F

## PART 4 — Comprehension: Passage 2

1. _____	4. _____
2. _____	5. _____
3. _____	6. _____

## PART 5 — Fill in the Blank

1. _____	5. _____
2. _____	6. _____
3. _____	7. _____
4. _____	8. _____

Parts 6 and 7 — use the space provided in the main worksheet · American Language Center 18K · <https://18kenglish.com/>



# ANSWER SHEET — ANSWER KEY

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PART 2A — Matching						
1. B	2. F	3. G	4. D	5. E	6. C	7. A

PART 2B — Fill in the Blank	
1. <i>sampling</i>	4. <i>persona</i>
2. <i>prolific</i>	5. <i>bipolar disorder</i>
3. <i>accolade</i>	6. <i>zeitgeist</i>

PART 3 — Comprehension: Passage 1	
1. Labels assumed hip-hop required street credibility West didn't project. He persisted, recorded "Through the Wire" with his jaw wired shut, and released <i>The College Dropout</i> (2004).	4. Pitchfork gave it 10.0; Rolling Stone cover; critics placed it among the greatest 21st-century albums. It synthesised all his preceding work into a maximalist statement of wounded grandiosity.
2. Lifting soul recordings and pitching them upward, creating a warm, melodic texture distinctly different from the harder sounds then dominant in hip-hop.	5. His mother died and a long-term relationship ended before its release. The bare electronics and Auto-Tuned vocals reflected emotional desolation — influencing Drake, Frank Ocean, Kid Cudi, and The Weeknd.
3. His personal biography, aesthetic vision, and cultural context were inseparable from the work; each album fundamentally renegotiated genre and form rather than evolving within a familiar style.	6. <i>The Life of Pablo</i> (2016) was released incomplete and repeatedly updated after publication — challenging the very definition of a finished album in the streaming era.

PART 4 — True or False			
1. <b>T</b>	2. <b>F</b>	3. <b>T</b>	4. <b>T</b>
5. <b>F</b>	6. <b>T</b>	7. <b>T</b>	8. <b>F</b>

PART 4 — Comprehension: Passage 2	
1. Generated \$1.5B+/year at peak. Distinctive for limited-release strategy and distinctive knitted aesthetic — creating secondary resale markets where pairs sold for multiples of retail price.	4. Mental illness may explain impulsive behaviour but does not make antisemitic conspiracy theories less dangerous or false. Advocates warned against using the diagnosis as a comprehensive excuse for harmful statements.
2. He said medication dulled his creative intensity. This concerned associates because non-compliance led to erratic, impulsive, and offensive public behaviour with real-world consequences for others.	5. His musical genius is undisputed, yet his conduct made straightforward celebration of it nearly impossible — creating an irresolvable tension between honouring his art and condemning his actions.
3. Adidas ended the Yeezy deal (~\$1.5B loss); Gap and Balenciaga ended agreements; CAA dropped him; promoters cancelled concerts. Analysts called it one of the fastest celebrity commercial collapses in modern history.	6. Former employee lawsuits alleging workplace harassment; defamation claims from individuals West had made false and damaging statements about in public forums.

PART 5 — Fill in the Blank			
1. <i>accolade</i>	2. <i>sampling</i>	3. <i>prolific</i>	4. <i>auteur</i>
5. <i>iconoclast</i>	6. <i>bipolar disorder</i>	7. <i>antisemitism</i>	8. <i>zeitgeist</i>