

Questions for *Nasser 56*

Please note that the movie is a bit long—you can begin to cut down on the length by fast forwarding through the lengthy credits at the beginning—start where you see subtitles in English.

As you watch the film, consider the role of memory, story-telling, and history—this film was made 40 years after 1956. Think about the history of the US (if this is your country of origin) and how Americans commemorate events e.g. Thanksgiving and July 4th—what things are remembered what aspects are not discussed. Consider the impact a story has based upon where the narrative begins—how does it compare to the narrative in Cleveland or the primary instructor’s lectures? Finally, you should take note of the fact that the film is in black and white so that old newsreel coverage of the events can be added.

1. Where does the real action and dialogue of the movie begin?
2. How are the superpowers depicted? Who is a superpower? What sort of pecking order exists among superpowers?
3. What is the role of the non-aligned bloc?
4. What threats does Egypt face?
5. Why is the High Dam so important?
6. What types of things does the film-maker emphasize about the personality, work ethic, and habits of Gamal Abd al-Nasir (Nasser)? Why is it important to show him as a family man?
7. How is the former ruling class depicted? [Hint—they are the ones that still wear the *tarbush*].
8. Examine Nasser’s thought process as he evaluates his options.
9. If you have time, compare the actor’s delivery of the speech to a clip of Nasser, e.g. www.haneen.com/eg/reactions/nasser.htm
10. How are Westerners depicted in the film?
11. Discuss world reaction to the nationalization.
12. Can you tell which footage is “real” and which is the movie?