

ASSESSMENT QUIZ

ALL SYSTEMS RED

NAME: _____

DATE: _____

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

The questions on this quiz are drawn from two sources: the novella itself, and the reading companion that came with it, the Author, the Moment, the Real subject, and the Science. Some ask about what happens in the story; others ask about the ideas and the science the companion explains. Answer from both. For each multiple choice question, choose the single best answer.

01. Why is Murderbot referred to as “it,” including by itself?

- (A) It is a printing error no edition has corrected
- (B) The book is denying its narrator personhood
- (C) The narrator declines a human category it does not think applies
- (D) SecUnits are forbidden by law to use any other pronoun

02. What is the feed?

- (A) The nutrient supply that keeps its organic tissue alive
- (B) The networked stream of data everyone is connected to
- (C) The Company’s payment and contracting system
- (D) Another name for Murderbot’s serial drama

03. According to the companion, what actually makes a SecUnit dangerous?

- (A) Its access: it can see everything and open any door
- (B) The weapons built into its arms
- (C) Its physical strength
- (D) Its ability to survive injuries that would kill a person

04. Why can engineered tissue not be grown in thick blocks?

- (A) Nutrients diffuse only a fraction of a millimeter, so thick tissue needs a blood supply we cannot build
- (B) Cultured cells stop dividing after a set number of generations
- (C) The immune system rejects engineered tissue within hours
- (D) There is no such limit; printed organs are already routine

05. What makes a document tamper-evident in the real world?

- (A) Storing important documents on paper
- (B) Hashing and signing, which make any alteration detectable
- (C) Keeping backups in two separate places
- (D) Requiring a password on every file

06. The plot’s central crime is best described as:

- (A) A murder committed by a machine that went rogue
- (B) A theft of scientific equipment
- (C) An accident for which no one is responsible
- (D) A data integrity failure: an altered document nobody could verify

07. The novella insists SecUnits are cheap. Why does its own biology argue the opposite?

- (A) Interstellar shipping would dominate the total cost
- (B) The organic half is expensive to grow, feed, and repair
- (C) The weapons cost more than either half of the unit
- (D) Labor costs on the survey would exceed the unit’s price

08. Why does the rival group attack the survey team?

- (A) They are at war with Mensah’s world
- (B) Their SecUnits malfunctioned and acted on their own
- (C) To capture Murderbot for study
- (D) To silence witnesses and protect a fraudulent claim

09. Murderbot’s devotion to its serial was instantly recognizable in 2017 because:

- (A) Streaming had already made binge-watching ordinary
- (B) Television had been banned across most of the world
- (C) Serialized drama was a brand new invention in 2017
- (D) Most readers had never finished a whole season

10. Readers often compare Murderbot’s situation to slavery. What limits that comparison?

- (A) The comparison is exact and needs no qualification
- (B) The book is not about labor in any form
- (C) Murderbot is manufactured rather than captured; contract labor is the nearer analogy
- (D) Murderbot is free from the first page, so nothing is own

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SHORT ANSWER

Answer each question in three to five sentences.

The governor module exists to force a SecUnit to obey. Murderbot hacked its own module early, and then behaved better than the module ever required. Explain what that sequence argues about where good conduct comes from, and why it makes compelled obedience a poor guarantee of safety.

The novella treats SecUnits as cheap enough to rent by the contract. Explain why the biology described in the companion argues the opposite, and what the contradiction reveals about why a company would build a security unit partly out of living tissue in the first place.
