

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Period \_\_\_\_\_ Due Date \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

## The Usual Suspects

*“The greatest trick the devil ever pulled was convincing the world he didn’t exist.”*

~ Verbal Kint

**Part One:** Pick **one** of the following questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in 2 ¶s or less. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source. Use examples from the film and/or other related films that would provide supporting evidence. Answer on a separate piece of paper and attach it to this page. (25%)

**Essential Guidelines:**

- clearly state the question you are addressing
- use black or blue ink *or* type
- double space (skip lines)
- *do not* write on both sides of the paper
- edit carefully
- cite evidence

1. Consider and describe the **mood** and **tone** of this film. Does the **mood** change? Is there anything unique about the **tone** of this film?
2. Cite at least two concrete examples of **foreshadowing** used in this film. Also consider the use of **motifs** as a form of **foreshadowing**.
3. Consider the **editing** of the film. Did the non-sequential presentation add complexity or did it distract from the story? If you were the editor or director would you have done anything differently?

**Part Two:** Pick **one** of the following questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in 2 ¶s or less. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source. Use examples from the film and/or other related films that would provide supporting evidence. Answer on a separate piece of paper and attach it to this page. (25%)

4. Recall a scene that impressed you aesthetically. What did you like about it – the **editing**, **camera placement**, **lighting**, etc?
5. How did you think the **music** played in this film? When you saw some of the scenes how did the music fit the scene? Did you feel that this was a good technique or did you feel that it didn’t match with the **pacing** of the scene?
6. Recall a scene that you didn’t like. Why didn’t you like it? What did it take away from the film if anything?

**Part Three:** Pick **one** of the following questions below and answer it as thoroughly as possible in about 5 ¶s. Depth of thought and analysis is what counts here, not hot air. Please cite evidence from the film and any other applicable source. Answer on a separate piece of paper and attach it to this page. (50%)

7. Research the literary terms **theme** and **motif**. Discuss and cite examples of how this film deals with these literary elements. What was the **theme**? Was the **theme** consistent with other films of the same genre?
8. Cite at least two other films made prior to 1995 that you feel influenced “The Usual Suspects.” Please cite clear evidence to support your observations.
9. So, do you want to try to explain this film? Many have tried, but few have succeeded. Here’s a short list of items you must address, however:
  - Outline what really did take place and what was fabricated by Verbal Kint.
  - Who was Keyser Söze?Good luck.

**Notes:**

Director:..... Bryan Singer  
Screenplay: ..... Christopher McQuarrie

**Characters:**

Stephen Baldwin ..... Michael McManus  
Gabriel Byrne ..... Dean Keaton  
Benicio Del Toro ..... Fred Fenster  
Kevin Pollak ..... Todd Hockney  
Kevin Spacey ..... Verbal Kint  
Chazz Palminteri ..... Dave Kujan  
Pete Postlethwaite ..... Kobayashi  
Suzy Amis ..... Edie Finneran  
Giancarlo Esposito ..... Jack Baer  
Dan Hedaya ..... Jeff Rabin  
Morgan Hunter ..... Arkosh Kovash  
Ron Gilbert ..... Daniel Metzheiser  
Peter Greene ..... Redfoot (uncredited)  
Christopher McQuarrie ..... Customs cop (uncredited)