The final take-home exam for Anthropology M155

Answer all the questions and type your answers, double-spaced, using a reasonable font. The length of your exam should not exceed 5 pages (strictly enforced). You should submit your exam by 4 p.m. on June 17th (Thursday) or earlier (I will subtract points from the late exams) to the office of the department of anthropology in 341 Haines Hall. I will prepare the box for you on June 14th.

Question 1:
“Reading a text against the grain of its ostensible meaning” is a textual strategy that I used when we read Kaibara Ekken’s work, “Women and Wisdom of Japan.” Explain briefly HOW you would read the text using this particular strategy (1 or 2 paragraphs).

Question 2:
Identify and name several “social reformers”- individuals, groups and institutions- of the Japanese factory women (of both silk and cotton industries) in the early 20th century. Then, discuss the similarities of their opinions (2 paragraphs).

Question 3:
The “Modern Girl” (modan gaaru or Moga) first appeared in the Japanese cultural construction in the early 1920s. Imagine you are a filmmaker living in the 1920s Japan and your mission is to promote the ideology of “good wife and wise mother.” Explain how you would “represent” a Modern Girl (or Modern Girls) in your film (Do not create a lengthy story line. You are expected to simply “explain” how you represent her or them).

Question 4:
Noriko- a Japanese woman- was born in Japan in 1930. Create a fictional story of the life history of Noriko. Although a fiction, your story must reflect the reality in which Japan has been situated since 1930.

*Do NOT reproduce the story of someone whose biography you are already familiar.
*Use the course materials to support your answer. Do NOT create footnotes or endnotes. Write information in parentheses, like (Tamanoi, lecture) or (LeBlanc, p.17).

I suggest 2 to 2.5 pages for questions 1, 2 and 3, and 2.5 to 3 pages for question 4. To repeat, your exam should NOT exceed 5 pages.