

1984: BOOK ONE

VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

PART ONE: CH. I - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

sanguine
archaic
procured
strident
nebulous
urbane
aureole
polysyllabic
inexorably
equivocal

PART ONE: CH. I - COMPREHENSION

1. What follows you everywhere (p. 3)?
2. What are the characteristics of a telescreen (p. 4)?
3. What mood does the following quote establish?
Outside, even through the shut window-pane, the world looked cold. Down in the street little eddies of wind were whirling dust and torn paper into spirals, and though the sun was shining and the sky a harsh blue, there seemed to be no colour in anything, except the posters that were plastered everywhere. The black moustachio'd face gazed down from every commanding corner (p. 4).
4. How do you have to live (p. 5)?
5. What are the three slogans of the Party? Are they paradoxes (p. 6)?
6. What are the three main Ministries and what what is each Ministry responsible for maintaining (p.6)?
7. Why is Winston writing a diary (p.9)?
8. Why is it impossible to communicate with the future? Explain (p. 9)
9. How do the Party people react to the content of the film? The Proles? What does this reveal about the "attitude of the times" (p. 10-11)?
10. Describe the real reason that inspired Winston to write in the diary (p. 11).

11. Are there any relationships to the past in Oceania? Find specific lines (p. 12).
12. Who is Emmanuel Goldstein and what is he responsible for? Find specific lines from the text (p. 13- 15).
13. Why are Goldstein's venomous attacks on doctrine believed absolutely? What does this remind you of (p. 14)?
14. What does the enemy of Oceania look like (p. 15)?
15. How do people react during the Two Minutes Hate (p. 16)?
16. What message transmits between O'Brien and Winston (p. 19)?
17. What is the 'essential crime' and what happens when they get you? Does Winston break the 'essential crime' (p. 21)?

PART ONE: CH.II - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

discountenanced
 gamboling
 raspingly
 myriad

PART ONE: CH.II - COMPREHENSION

1. Describe Parsons (p. 24).
2. Why are adults wary of children (p.27)?
3. What is the significance of the following quote?
We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness.
4. What are the sacred principles of Newspeak (p. 28)?
5. How do you carry on the human heritage (p. 30)?

PART ONE: CH. III - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

furtive
 labyrinthine
 repudiate
 shrewish
 inscrutable

PART ONE: CH. III - COMPREHENSION

1. Explain the 'loss of a sense of tragedy' (p. 32)?

2. What is 'throwing one's clothes aside' symbolic of (p. 33)?
3. What is the old name for Airstrip One?
4. Can anything be historical? Explain (p. 37).
5. Explain the labyrinthine world of Doublethink. Are any of these ideas true today (p. 37).
6. What happens to the past (p. 38)?

PART ONE: CH. IV - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

pneumatic
 palimpsest
 multifarious
 abject
 pedantic

PART ONE: CH. IV - COMPREHENSION

1. What does "rectify" mean? What does it do to history (pgs. 41-2)?
2. What is "continuous alteration" applied to (p. 42)?
3. What is the "shadow world" (p44)?
4. What is Ampleforth's job (p.45)?
5. What is the primary job of the Ministry of Truth? how is the name of the ministry a contrast to its actual function in Oceanic society. Explain (p. 45).
6. What is an "unperson" (p. 48)?
7. What is curious about Comrade Ogilvy?

PART ONE: CH. V - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

protuberant
 derisive
 furtive(ly)
 fulminating
 venerated
 edified

PART ONE: BK V: COMPREHENSION

1. How is the name, Ministry of Love, a contrast to what its actual function is? Explain (p.52).
2. Explain Syme's philosophy on the beautiful' destruction of words (p.54-5).
3. What is the whole aim of Newspeak (p.55-6)?
4. Why will people like Syme one day be vaporized (p.56)?
5. Explain why the 'amateur spy' is so dangerous (p.65).
6. Explain 'facecrime' (p.65).

PART ONE: CH. VI - COMPREHENSION

1. Who is your 'worst enemy'? why (p.67)?
2. What is the most deadly danger (p.67)?
3. What does Winston associate scent with (p.68)?
4. Why is prostitution tacitly encouraged (p.68)?
5. Examine the 'enemy' eroticism and the Anti-Sex League and why sex is distorted and dirtied (p.68-9)
6. What is 'rebellion' (p.71)?

PART ONE: CH. VII - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

ermine
sinecures

PART ONE: CH. VII - COMPREHENSION

1. Why does Winston believe that, "If there is hope, it lies in the Proles (p. 72)?
2. Why is it impossible or unlikely that the Proles will ever rebel? Identify three points (p. 73-75).
3. What strikes Winston about modern life (p. 77)?
4. Why were people like Jones, Aaronson and Rutherford - once influential artists and political activists - singled-out as dangerous?
5. What is the significance of the fragment of paper Winston finds (p. 81)?
6. What is the heresy of heresies? Why (p. 84)?
7. Who is Winston writing the diary to (p.84)?

PART ONE: CH. VIII - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

sordid
agate
slatternly
incongruous
actuated
lassitude
inertia

PART ONE: CH. VIII - COMPREHENSION

1. What is the meaning of 'ownlife' (p. 85)?
2. How does Winston's chat with the old man reaffirm his opinion that the Proles, as he knows them, are incapable of rebellion? Find specific lines (p. 96).
3. What is the symbolic significance of the antique shop and antiques (p. 99)?
4. What is 'ancestral memory' also known as? What does this mean?
5. Who does Winston encounter upon leaving the antique shop? What does Winston think will happen after this encounter (p. 104)
6. Explain the meaning of the following quote:
It struck him that in moments of crisis one is never fighting against an external enemy, but always against one's own body.

notes

1984: BOOK TWO

VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

PART TWO: CH. I - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

fatuous
writhed
queue
malignant
utterly incurious

PART TWO: CH. I - COMPREHENSION

1. How is correspondence transmitted (p. 116)?

PART TWO: CH. II - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

insatiably
etiolated
incredulity
obeisance
iniquity

PART TWO: CH. II - COMPREHENSION

1. Why does Winston feel inferior to the 'girl' (p. 124)?
2. How does Julia respond to Winston's 'truthful' love-offering (p. 127)?
3. What does the taste of chocolate stir in Winston (p. 128)?
4. What astonishes Winston about Julia's demeanor (p. 128)?
5. Why is the taking off of clothing given such significance (p. 131)?
6. What does the following line reveal about the workings of the Inner Party?

They're not so holy as they make out.

7. Why is Winston fascinated and hopeful about Julia's promiscuity (p. 131)?
8. What would tear the party to pieces? Explain (p. 132)?

PART TWO: CH. III - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

prosaically

PART TWO: CH. III - COMPREHENSION

1. Is Julia being a revolutionary or simply herself? Explain (p. 138).
2. Why is sexual privation a bonus for the Party? Explain (p. 139).
3. What does the family become an extension of? How (p. 140)?
4. Is Julia an optimist? Explain (p. 142).

PART TWO: CH. IV - COMPREHENSION

1. What permanent rendezvous does Winston set-up for Julia and himself? How does he feel? Explain (p. 143).
2. What is this line symbolic of?
Of all horrors in the world - rat.

PART TWO: CH. V- VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

febrile
exhortations
inviolable
deprecating
palpable

PART TWO: CH. V - COMPREHENSION

1. What happens to Syme (p. 154)?
2. Explain this metaphor:
The room was a world, a pocket of the past where extinct animals could walk.
3. What insights/ideas does Julia have about opposition to the Party? What ideas/insights does Julia have about the Party's use of war as a mass controlling mechanism (p. 159)?
4. "It's always one bloody war after another, and one knows the news is all lies anyways." Connect this line to a contemporary/current issue.

5. Describe the different ways - pages 159-163 - that Julia and Winston think about things (i.e. the Party, history, philosophy).
6. Explain the significance of the following quote and connect it to a contemporary issue or current event:

By lack of understanding they remained sane. They simply swallowed everything, and what they swallowed did them no harm, because it left no residue behind, just as a grain of corn will pass undigested through the body of a bird.

PART TWO: CH. VI - COMPREHENSION

1. Why does Winston think O'Brien alludes to Syme (p. 165)?

PART TWO: CH. VII - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

pathos

PART TWO: CH. VII - COMPREHENSION

1. What does Winston's mother possess that makes her seem different (p. 171)?
2. What condition do the Proles remain in? Provide details (p.172)
3. What is the real betrayal?

PART TWO: CH. VIII - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

demur

catechism

persiflage

PART TWO: CH. VIII - COMPREHENSION

1. List four things that Winston and Julia are willing to do to destroy the Party.
2. Why can't the Brotherhood be wiped out? Provide details.
3. Why is there no hope for a member of the Brotherhood (p. 183)?

PART TWO: CH. IX - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

debauch
luridly
feral
syntax
fecundity
execrate
inimical
ruminant
avaricious
expropriated
oligarchy
ossified
vilifies
impudence

PART TWO: CH. IX - COMPREHENSION

1. What does war mean in the centres of civilisation (p. 194)?
2. What valuable resources do the disputed areas contain? Is this true of our non-fiction world (p. 195)?
3. What is the vision of society in the early Twentieth Century? What causes this vision to be destroyed (p. 197)?
4. Why is it necessary to maintain a hierarchical society (p. 198)?
5. What is the essential act of war?
6. What is science in opposition to? Why?
7. What are the two aims of the Party?
8. Why is contact with foreigners denied?
9. What has war in "our own day" become?
10. Describe the aims of the three social groups (p. 210).
11. Explain the meaning of the following quote:
The cyclical movement of history was now intelligible, or appeared to be so; and if it was intelligible, then it was alterable.
12. Explain the meaning of the following quote:
The earthly paradise had been discredited at exactly the moment when it became realizable.
13. What are the four ways that a ruling party can fall from power?
14. Explain the meaning of the following quote:

The masses never revolt of their own accord, and they never revolt merely because they are oppressed. Indeed, so long as they are not permitted to have standards of comparison, they never even become aware that they are oppressed.

15. Explain the meaning of this quote. Does it have any relevance today?

The consciousness of the masses needs only to be influenced in a negative way.

16. What is the function of Big Brother?

17. Why will hereditary succession eventually fail (p. 218)?

18. What does crimestop mean?

19. Explain the concept of doublethink (p. 221).

PART TWO: CH. X - COMPREHENSION

1. Explain why the future belongs to the Proles (p. 229-230).

1984: BOOK THREE/APPENDIX

VOCABULARY AND COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

PART THREE: CH. I - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

pedant
desultory
sententiously
insidious
doleful
timorously

PART THREE: CH. I - COMPREHENSION

1. What is the difference between Party prisoners and ordinary criminals?
2. How are social roles transformed in prison?
3. What is the place "with no darkness"?
4. How does Parsons react to his incarceration?
5. What are prisoners willing to do to NOT go to Room 101?
6. What question does Winston get answered?

PART THREE: CH. II - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

sedition
prevaricate
wantonness
prostrated

PART THREE: CH. II - COMPREHENSION

1. What is Winston's disease, according to O'Brien?
2. What does Winston have to learn to become sane?
3. Why is Winston still fascinated and connected to O'Brien (p. 264)?
4. What does the Party learn and adapt from the Inquisition and the Nazis (p. 266)?
5. Will Winston ever have "humanity" once he leaves the place? Explain (p. 268- 269).

PART THREE: CH. III - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

insurrection
solipsism
malleable

PART THREE: CH. III - COMPREHENSION

1. Explain the significance of the following quote:
The first thing you must realise is that power is collective. The individual only has power in so far as he ceases to be an individual.
2. What will the four emotions be?
3. List the six 'there will be no's'.
4. What is the picture of the future (p. 280)?

PART THREE: CH. IV - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

torpid

PART THREE: CH. IV - COMPREHENSION

1. Explain the significance of the following quote:
Stupidity was as necessary as intelligence, and as difficult to attain.
2. How does Winston retreat a step further (p. 293)?
3. "To die hating them, that was freedom." Why?

PART THREE: CH. V - COMPREHENSION

1. What is unendurable for Winston? Why are courage and cowardice not involved?

PART THREE: CH. VI - VOCABULARY

Understand the context of the words (as used in the text) and be able to use the new vocabulary correctly.

obliquely
abstruse

PART THREE: CH. VI - COMPREHENSION

1. Why is it impossible for Winston and Julia to rekindle their relationship?
2. What is the purpose - symbolic significance - of the chess game?

APPENDIX: THE PRINCIPLES OF NEWSPEAK - COMPREHENSION

1. What is the purpose of Newspeak? Provide details.
2. What is Newspeak designed to do?
3. What is the purpose of A Vocabulary?
4. Could synonyms exist in Newspeak? Explain.
5. What is considered a 'bad word'?
6. What is the purpose of B Vocabulary?
7. What is the greatest difficulty facing Newspeak compilers?
8. Explain why *prolefeed* is a degrading term.
9. What is perceived by abbreviating words?
10. Why is each reduction a gain?
11. Is there a possibility for metaphor in Oceania? Discuss.
12. Are we the Proles? Discuss and support your answer.
13. Does the English language, today, have some features of Newspeak? Explain.