

AP English Literature Summer Reading Assignment

Read 1984 by George Orwell and Brave New World by Aldous Huxley and write a comparative essay. Both of these are categorized as Anti-Utopian novels. Be sure to turn in an outline with your paper. Papers should be 600 word minimum, and each body paragraph should have at least one quote from each novel to support your topic sentence for that paragraph. Remember to turn in an outline and to cite your quotes. (Huxley 96) (Orwell 124)

Choose three issues that lend themselves to comparison and contrast. The final five-paragraph essay should be a minimum of 600 words. Both authors treat several elements that concern them (loss of individuality, sex, the family, propaganda, how the government insures stability, classes of people, conditioning of children, dangers that may come to be (warnings) and may have already manifested themselves, the media influence, etc.). Take the three elements that you notice the most and use at least one quote from each novel in each of the body paragraphs. Even though they both cover these topics, they also use different methods within each category that you will need to discuss.

You will have a general quiz on 1984 and Brave New World the first day of school. After a discussion of each novel, you will have a test covering both novels around the end of August. Your essay is due on the first day of school as are your questions. Brave New World is an easier, faster read (June?). 1984 is a little more complex (July?). I would read it last. I have attached a study guide for each novel and a sample AP test question. Don't start the year behind- essay, quiz, study questions, project, and test- 5 grades right off the bat- Come prepared.

Books for next year. Buy a clean copy.

MLA Handbook- 9th Edition

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen (need immediately)

Hamlet by William Shakespeare

Othello by William Shakespeare

Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad

A Lesson Before Dying by Ernest Gaines (wait on this- we don't always get to it)

Brave New World Study Questions Ch. 1-8

1. Who doesn't want to end up with whom in bed on the first date and says, "I want to feel something strong. I want to know what passion is."
2. Who isn't pleased with Bernard and threatens to send him to Iceland?
3. Who says, "Cleanliness is next to fordliness" and is disgusted with the Savage Reservation?
4. About what is Bernard speaking when he says to Lenina, "What a wonderfully intimate relationship."
5. What is it physically about John that makes him an outcast at the reservation?
6. What is an event that is discussed from which John is excluded and he really wants to be a part of?
7. What does Popé give to Linda that is the Reservation equivalent of soma?
8. Which hypnopædiac phrase is concerned with the consumerism of the society?
9. Who is "he?" "But he heard nothing and for him, nobody was coming."
10. Why is Helmholtz discontent in this Brave New World?
11. Why would Ford be idolized in this world?
12. What is a "consumer" society?

1. To which Shakespearian character does John compare Lenina when he sees her sleeping (in a soma coma) in her pink pajamas?
2. Why is this quote irony? "...you will see that no offense is so heinous as unorthodoxy of behavior....Unorthodoxy threatens more than the life of a mere individual; it strikes at society itself." Include the speaker and the person talked about in your answer.
3. Does Linda recognize Tomakin? What are John's first words to Tomakin?
4. Who now "found himself ...treated as a person of outstanding importance."
5. Who is the speaker of "I had six girls last week."?
6. Who is being discussed? "That young man will come to a bad end....He won't find another Savage to help him out a second time."
7. What has Helmholtz done that makes him feel that he is a "marked man?"
8. Of whose relationship is Bernard jealous?
9. Who is speaking to whom in this quote: "...you had to bring her the skin of a mountain lion....Or else a wolf."
10. What is the conflict between John and Lenina?
11. Explain the death conditioning in Chapter 14.
Who is receiving it?
What treat is being given?
Who is appalled by it?
12. Who calls whom a "filthy whore...impudent strumpet?"

Brave New World- Study Questions Chapters 15-end

1. Who says, "I come to bring you freedom," and when is it said?
2. How did police control the madness at the hospital?
3. Which three people end up in front of Mond?
4. Who says, "We sacrificed high art," and what does it mean?
5. What is the discussion about a society of Alphas?
6. What is Mond's opinion of science?
7. What is "orthodoxy?"
8. Who says, "I should like a thoroughly bad climate?" Why would this person like this?
9. Why, according to Mond, do people need God?
10. Explain the argument about self-denial and indulgence.
11. Who thinks tears are necessary? Says, "Nothing cost enough here."
12. Who says, "I claim them all." What is "them?"
13. Where does the Savage choose to spend his solitude?
14. How does he plan to survive?
15. When he finds himself singing and happy, what does he do?

16. What happens to end his solitude?
17. Why and how does the Savage kill himself?
18. Who is John's mother?
19. Who is John's father?
20. Who is the World Controller?
21. What does it mean to be an "orthodox" party member? Who are two of them, and why would you consider them to be "orthodox?"

General Questions from Brave New World

1. Who wrote Brave New World?
2. Who is the character who shows the idealism and optimism of the author as a young man?
3. Who is the character who shows the cynicism of the author as an older man?
4. What is the name for sleep teaching?
5. What is the name for splitting eggs?
6. Who is the World Controller?
7. Who is Linda's lover on the reservation?
8. Who is John's father?
9. Who is the thoughtful rebel who wants to teach his students to write piercingly?
10. Who is the selfish rebel who only rebels when he is a misfit?
11. Why and how is he a misfit?
12. Where is the Savage Reservation?

13. What kind of novel is Brave New World?
14. What does it mean to be orthodox?
15. Who are two very orthodox characters?
16. What is the feel-good drug?
17. Who goes with Bernard to the Savage Reservation?
18. Who supports denial?
19. Who supports indulgence?
20. Who is exiled to the Falkland's, and how does he feel about it?
21. Who says, "I claim them all," and what is "all?"
22. Why is Linda a misfit at the reservation?
23. Why is Linda a misfit at the World State?
24. What are three examples of conditioning in Brave New World?

25. What are ten ways that the World State keeps stability (control over its citizens)?

26. Who believes that we need tears?
27. What does a chocolate éclair represent?
28. Who uses a whip?
29. What is a consumer related phrase?
30. What is a sex related phrase?
31. What are the classes of people?
32. What do roses represent and why are they used as a part of conditioning?
33. Who is jealous of the friendship between John the Savage and Helmholtz?

Study Questions 1984

Book 1- Ch. 1, 2, 3

1. Who is the main character? Briefly describe him.
2. What is the setting of the novel-country and city?
3. What are the three slogans of the Party?
4. What does the caption on the poster say?
5. Name each of the ministries and explain its function. Include the Newspeak name also.
6. Describe the two people he sees just before the Two Minutes Hate and tell what he thinks of them.
7. Explain the importance of Emmanuel Goldstein.
8. Describe and explain the importance of Big Brother.
9. Explain the main character's crime.
10. What is the telescreen?
11. What is thoughtcrime?

Book 1: Ch. 4, 5, 6

1. What is Winston's job and what does it show about the party?
2. What is the aim of Newspeak?
3. What is facecrime and give an example.
4. What is the aim of the party as far as sex goes?
5. What is the party's policy on marriage?

Book 1: Ch. 7-8

1. Where does Winston think hope lies and why?
2. Describe the one time that Winston held real evidence of an act of falsification.
3. For whom is Winston writing the diary?
4. What does he write in his diary?
5. What happens when he goes to the antique shop?

Book 2: Ch. 1, 2, 3, 4

1. What happens with the girl with the dark hair?

2. What is Julia's attitude toward the party?
3. How does Julia explain the party's sexual puritanism?
4. Describe their life in the room above the antique shop.
5. How does Winston react when he sees the rat?

Book 2: Ch. 5, 6, 7, 8

1. Who has vanished and why do you think he was vaporized?
2. Describe the meeting between Winston and O'Brien.
3. What does Winston tell Julia the real betrayal will be when that are caught?
4. What happens at O'Brien's house?

Book 2: Ch. 9, 10

1. According to The Book, what is the aim of modern warfare?
2. Explain the organization of the Party.
3. What is doublethink and give an example.
4. What happens after Winston says, "We are the dead"?

5. What do they discover about Mr. Charrington?

Book 3: Ch. 1, 2

1. Where is Winston, who is brought in, and why does he think he is there?

2. Who is brought into the cell next to Winston and why?

3. What is Room 101, and who is in there with Winston?

Book 3: Ch. 3, 4, 5, 6

1. According to O'Brien, what are the three stages of Winston's reintegration?

2. What does Winston find out about The Book?

3. How has Winston changed physically during his imprisonment?

4. What happens when O'Brien puts the cage onto Winston's face?

5. What is Winston thinking at the end of the novel?

General questions- Use your paper for these.

1. What is Orwell's warning?

2. Give three symbols and tell what they symbolize.

3. Give three examples of irony.

4. What are 5 ways that the party insures stability?

This is a sample AP Test question. Consider it after you read both summer reading novels. Take a few notes expressing your opinion. You will have an assignment using it after school begins.

(Suggested Time- 40 minutes. This question counts one-third of the total essay section score.)

In the following passage, the contemporary social critic Neil Postman contrasts George Orwell's vision of the future, as expressed in the novel *1984* (written in 1948) with that of Aldous Huxley in the novel *Brave New World* (1936). Read the passage, considering Postman's assertion that Huxley's vision is more relevant today than is Orwell's. Then, using your own critical understanding of contemporary society as evidence, write a carefully argued essay that agrees or disagrees with Postman's assertion.

We were keeping our eye on 1984. When the year came and the prophecy didn't, thoughtful Americans sang softly in praise of themselves. The roots of liberal democracy had held. Wherever else the terror had happened, we, at least, had not been visited by Orwellian nightmares.

But we had forgotten that alongside Orwell's dark vision, there was another—slightly older, slightly less well known, equally chilling: Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*. Contrary to common belief even among the educated, Huxley and Orwell did not prophesy the same thing. Orwell warns that we will be overcome by an externally imposed oppression. But in Huxley's vision, no Big Brother is required to deprive people of their autonomy, maturity, and history. As he saw it, people will come to love their oppression, to adore the technologies that undo their capacities to think.

What Orwell feared were those who would ban books. What Huxley feared was that there would be no reason to ban a book, for there would be no one who wanted to read one. Orwell feared those who would deprive us of information. Huxley feared those who would give us so much that we would be reduced to passivity and egoism. Orwell feared that the truth would be concealed from us. Huxley feared the truth would be drowned in a sea of irrelevance. Orwell feared we would become a captive culture. Huxley feared we would become a trivial culture, preoccupied with some equivalent of the feelies, the orgy porgy, and the centrifugal bumblepuppy. As Huxley remarked in *Brave New World Revisited*, the civil libertarians and rationalists who are ever on the alert to oppose tyranny “failed to take into account man's almost infinite appetite for distractions.” In *1984*, Huxley added, people are controlled by inflicting pain. In *Brave New World*, they are controlled by inflicting pleasure. In short, Orwell feared that what we hate will ruin us. Huxley feared that what we love will ruin us.