

Test: *Brave New World* & Dystopian Literature Review Qs¹

Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*

Character Identification

British author famous for his philosophical works and experimentation with hallucinogens

Alpha-Plus psychologist who is smaller and shorter than other Alphas

Pretty, popular, "wonderfully pneumatic" nurse at the Hatchery

Resident Controller for Western Europe

Savage born on the Reservation who values emotions

Real name of the Director of Hatcheries and Conditioning

Frustrated writer of state propaganda who wants to struggle for a change

Man who John contemplates stabbing, *Hamlet*-style

World-State-born woman who gives birth to a child

John's favorite author and source for many of his sayings

True/False (The statements on the test will address these details from the novel)
When did Huxley write *BNW*?

Which of Henry Ford's innovations are represented in *BNW*?

What's the W.S.'s motto?

What's the W.S.'s attitude towards monogamy?

What functions do sports play in the W.S.?

How'd John end up in the Savage Reservation?

What's described as having "all the advantages of Christianity and alcohol; none of their defects"?

How does the DHC get driven out of his role?

Why does Bernard bring John and Linda to the W.S.?

Who does John propose to and how does she respond?

The W.S. is a society built via science; what's the government's attitude towards new scientific discoveries?

What's the W.S.'s attitude towards solitude?

How does reproduction work in the W.S.?

How does the W.S. deal with aging and death?

¹ **Note:** The test itself has 65 questions. This isn't an *exhaustive* list of what's on the test, but it does cover most of the questions and the format. Use it to review and—if you did most of the reading and in-class activities—you should be well prepared for the test.

Multiple Choice

Name at least two scientific, psychological, or sociological principles, processes, or activities that are part of the World State society.

Where is the opening of the novel set?

What's the rumor about Bernard?

Identify at least two characteristics of *Brave New World* that are representative of dystopian fiction.

Identify at least two concepts or ideas that W.S. children are taught through conditioning.

What happens in a Solidarity Service?

How does Linda end up on the Reservation?

Why does John disrupt the soma distribution process?

Who is the deity figure revered by the World State citizens?

What happens to Linda after her return to the W.S.?

How do people treat John when he's brought to the W.S.?

Helmholtz gets in trouble for writing about...?

How does Bernard's behavior change after he brings John to the W.S.?

When Mond points out to John that the right to be unhappy includes senility, sickness, hunger, pain, and fear, how does John reply?

How does Huxley's novel end?

What are some of the targets of Huxley's satire? What satirical techniques does he use in his critique and mockery? (e.g. parody, exaggeration, juxtaposition, irony)

Quotation Matching: Who Said It?

"I wonder if you'd like to come back to London with us?" he asked, making the first move in a campaign whose strategy he had been secretly elaborating ever since, in the little house, he had realized who the 'father' of this young savage must be."

"But I don't want comfort. I want God, I want poetry, I want real danger, I want freedom, I want goodness. I want sin."

"One can't have something for nothing. Happiness has got to be paid for. You're paying for it, Mr. Watson...because you happen to be too much interested in beauty. I was too much interested in truth; I paid too."

"O brave new world...' In his mind the singing words seemed to change their tone...they had insisted on the low squalor, the nauseous ugliness of the nightmare. Now, suddenly, they trumpeted a call to arms. 'O brave new world!'"

"Words can be like X-rays, if you use them properly—they'll go through anything. You read and you're pierced."

"I am I, and wish I wasn't."

"For Ford's sake...talk sense. I can't understand a word you say. First it's vacuum cleaners; then it's knots. You're driving me crazy...Answer me this question: do you really like me, or don't you?"

"I should like a thoroughly bad climate,' he answered. 'I believe one would write better if the climate were bad. If there were a lot of wind and storms, for example...'"

"My love, my baby. No wonder these poor pre-moderns were mad and wicked and miserable. Their world didn't allow them to take things easily, didn't allow them to be sane, virtuous, happy...they were forced to feel strongly. And feeling strongly...how could they be stable?"

"Call it the fault of civilization. God isn't compatible with machinery and scientific medicine and universal happiness. You must make your choice. Our civilization has chosen machinery and medicine and happiness."

"All right then...I'm claiming the right to be unhappy."

Ursula Le Guin's "The Ones Who Walk Away From Omelas"

Identify at least one characteristic of Omelas that could mark it as a utopia.

Identify at least one characteristic of Omelas that could mark it as a dystopia.

Identify two parallels between *BNW* and "...Omelas."

What point in the story marks the most severe shift in its mood?

Le Guin once called her own story "a critique of American moral values." The setting of Omelas, the martyr child, and the social contract set up for the society's happiness are said to represent real world societies that function in a similar, if less fantastical, fashion.

This device—through which setting, characters, and situations are used symbolically to represent other parallel ideas—is known as...?

Give an example of a real life parallel for the symbolic situation presented in "Omelas."

Horatian satire is tolerant, witty, and humble; **Juvenalian** satire is caustic, critical, and angry: which style does Le Guin's story fall closer to?

Kurt Vonnegut's "Harrison Bergeron"

What type of dystopian control is most evident in "Harrison Bergeron"?

"I am the emperor!" cried Harrison. "Do you hear? I am the emperor! Everybody must do what I say at once! [...] 'Even as I stand here-' he bellowed, 'crippled, hobbled, sickened – I am a greater ruler than any man who ever lived! Now watch me become what I can become!'"

How is Harrison characterized in this story? Describe him.

What happens to Harrison and his Empress?

How is the egalitarian² society created in "Harrison"?

What's Vonnegut's primary satirical technique in "Harrison"?

Chandler Tuttle's 2081

Identify one way that *2081* differs from its source story.

² Principle that all people deserve equal rights and opportunities