

Brave New World & Our Posthuman Future

I. Reading Comprehension:

You will be tested on how well you know and understand the novel.

Suggestions

- Re-read your notes on the novel
- Review the notes you took on each of our discussion days

II. Character Identification & Quote Identification

You will need to be able to identify the major (and some minor) characters of the novel as well as identify significant quotations.

Suggestions

- Review your data sheet!!
- Review notes on characters you took during our discussion days

III. Background and related BNW information

You will be asked questions concerning the dystopian genre, Huxley's motivations to write *Brave New World*, and Theodore Dalrymple's article "The Dystopian Imagination."

Suggestions

- Review the "Intro to Brave New World" PowerPoint (This one is available on the website.)
- Review the various articles you were required to read during the course of this unit, including "The Dystopian Imagination" and "Forced Smiles" by Theodore Dalrymple; and "The Myth of Overpopulation" by Michael Cravens.

IV. Brave New World Allusions

You will need to know the following terms and references. Remember that all these terms and figures are defined on your BNW vocab and terms download. (See BNW page of class website.)

Political Terms

plutocracy	Marxism	Nazism	proletariat
Modernism	Communism	Socialism	mass production
consumerism	Malthusian	propaganda	totalitarianism

Historical Figures

Karl Marx	Henry Ford	Sigmund Freud	Leon Trotsky
Ivan Pavlov	Thomas Malthus	Le Corbusier	Vladimir Lenin

V. Short Essay Section

You will be given a number of prompts to answer in a well-developed paragraph pertaining to some of the following: theme, motif, characterization, plot development, symbolism, foreshadowing in *Brave New World*; the required reading from Fukuyama's *Our Posthuman*

Future; the relevance of *Brave New World* to the contemporary biotech revolution as discussed in the group biotech presentations and the seminar discussions

Suggestions

- Review your eWorksheets and notes on the *Our Posthuman Future* seminar discussions.
- Review your data sheet
- Review your notes on the biotech group projects

VI. Brave New World Lexicon

You should know and understand the following concepts introduced in *Brave New World*:

ANTHRAX: An infectious, often fatal disease of sheep and cattle that can also kill humans. The Utopian state was established after a war in which anthrax bombs were used as a weapon of germ warfare.

BOKANOVSKY'S PROCESS: Method to make a human egg bud by arresting its growth, producing up to 96 identical people.

CASTE: One of the five groups into which all citizens of the brave new world are divided by heredity and conditioning, each with its own rank and intelligence range. They are Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, and Epsilon, from the Greek letters that English schools use as grades.

COMMUNITY SING: An observance of the Fordian religion for the lower castes. The Arch Community Songster is the equivalent of an Archbishop.

CONDITION: To put into a desired state by chemical, physical, or psychological action.

DECANTING: Process by which embryos are removed from the bottles in which they grow; equivalent of birth.

ECTOGENESIS: Reproduction outside the human body, for example in bottles.

EMOTIONAL ENGINEERING: Designing propaganda for use on citizens. The Utopia's closest equivalent to writing poetry.

FREEMARTIN: A sterile person; the Utopia makes 70 percent of its females freemartins by dosing the embryos with male sex hormones. They still have female sex organs, but they also have beards that need shaving.

HYPNOPAEDIA: Teaching people while they sleep. In the book, suitable only for moral suggestion, not facts or analysis.

PODSNAP'S TECHNIQUE: Method to speed the ripening of human eggs, making it possible to multiply the number a single ovary can produce.

PREDESTINATION: The process of determining which embryos will grow up to do particular jobs in particular places. The word has religious overtones; it once meant God's decision as to who would be saved and who would be damned.

PREGNANCY SUBSTITUTE: A medical technique that floods a woman's body with all the hormonal and other physical changes it would undergo during pregnancy, which she will never experience.

SAVAGE: A person who is born and raised outside the Utopia and does not know how to behave according to its rules.

SCENT ORGAN: An instrument that plays smells the way a piano or a pipe organ plays music.

SOLIDARITY SERVICE: A Fordian religious observance for the upper castes, usually 12 people who eventually unite in a sexual orgy.

SOMA: A drug that both tranquilizes and intoxicates without hangovers or side effects. It provides citizens of the Utopia with escape from self and surroundings.