

1984 Questions

Remember to answer in complete sentences or points will be deducted.

Part One: Chapters I, II, III

1. Who is the main character? Describe the main character.
2. What is the setting of the novel? Give the country and the city.
3. What are the three main slogans of the Party? Write them the way they are shown in the novel.
4. What do you think is powerful about the posters that makes people listen?
5. Name each of the Ministries and explain its function. Also include the Newspeak name for each ministry.
6. What date does the main character record?
7. Describe the two people the main character sees just before the Two Minutes Hate. Tell what he thinks of each of these people.
8. Explain the importance of Emmanuel Goldstein. Also describe the way his image looks.
9. Explain the importance of Big Brother. Also describe the way his image looks.
10. What crime does the main character commit? How does he do this? What is the punishment?
11. What is the telescreen and how is it used?
12. Why do you think the Party cares about thoughtcrime?

Part One: Chapters IV, V, VI

1. What happens to the rewritten news articles after Winston puts them into the pneumatic tube? Why is this an important job?
2. Winston thinks that what he is doing is not forgery. What does he think it is instead?
3. What is Winston's greatest pleasure in his life, and why is it so?
4. Describe the aim of Newspeak and how it works.
5. What does Syme think about Winston's appreciation of Newspeak?
6. Winston is at lunch when the message on the telescreen relates the good news about increased production, including that the chocolate ration has been raised to twenty grams a week. What does Winston think of this message?
7. What is facecrime?
8. Who is looking at Winston during lunch? How does this make Winston feel?
9. What is the Party's policy on marriage, divorce, and children?
10. Do you think it's bad that the Party wants to control relationships of the people? Why or why not?

Part One: Chapters VII, VIII

1. Where does Winston think hope lies? Why?
2. What is the Party belief about the proles?
3. Describe the one time that Winston held real evidence of an act of falsification.
4. What bothers Winston the most, gives him "sense of nightmare"?
5. What is Winston more afraid of than "the thought that he might be a lunatic"?
6. What is the "heresy of heresies"? Why is that terrifying to Winston?
7. Who does Winston realize he is writing his diary for?
8. What is the final, "most essential" command of the Party?

9. What does Winston write in his diary?
10. Describe what happens when Winston goes to the antique shop, and who he sees when he comes out.

Part Two: Chapters I, II, III, IV

1. Describe what happens when the girl with the dark hair falls on the floor.
2. What does the note say? How does Winston feel about the message on the note? Why is the note dangerous?
3. What is the girl's name? What emotions does Winston feel at first when the girl put her arms around him? What emotion didn't he feel?
4. Winston asks the girl what attracted her to him. What is her answer?
5. What does the girl tell Winston about her attitude toward the party?
6. Do you think Julia agrees with the Party?
7. According to Winston, how has the Party used the "instinct of parenthood"?
8. What does Winston do the next time he visits the little shop? Why?
9. What does Julia bring to their meeting? How does Winston react when he sees the rat?

Part Two: Chapters V, VI, VII, VIII

1. Who has vanished?
2. How has Winston changed since he started coming to the little room with Julia?
3. What do Winston and Julia realize about their relationship?
4. What does Winston realize from talking to Julia about things he remembers?
5. How does Winston feel during the meeting between Winston and O'Brien.
6. What does Winston think this meeting means?
7. Why do you think Winston tells Julia "the real betrayal will be when we are caught"?
8. How does Winston say they can beat the Party?
9. Describe (2-3 sentences) the meeting between O'Brien, Julia, and Winston at O'Brien's apartment.
10. What does O'Brien know that surprises Winston during this meeting?

Part Two: Chapters IX, X

1. Why is Winston working such long hours?
2. In The Book, what is the aim of modern warfare? (The Book "in accordance with the principles of doublethink")
3. In The Book, what is really going on with the war, and why?
4. While Winston is reading Chapter 1 of The Book, he stops for a minute. What makes him stop reading?
5. How is the current government different than any previous governments? What invention enables it to be like this?
6. What is doublethink?
7. What is the one thing that Winston and Julia know they will never do together?
8. While Winston and Julia are in the room, he says, "We are the dead," and Julia repeats the phrase. What do you think this means?
9. What does Winston discover about Mr. Charrington?

Part Three: Chapters I, II

1. Where is Winston as this section of the novel opens?

2. What is Winston Smith's number?
3. Who is brought into the cell with Winston and why does he think he is there?
4. Who is brought into the cell next and why? Who denounced him? How does he feel about the arrest?
5. What is the number of the room where the guards take some of the prisoners? What do most prisoners think of this number?
6. Who comes into the room next? What does Winston discover about this person?
7. What does O'Brien tell Winston about Big Brother, the Party, and the Brotherhood?
8. What is the last question that Winston asks O'Brien? What is O'Brien's answer?
9. Does Winston betray Julia in either of these chapters?

Part Three: Chapters III, IV, V, VI

1. What are the "three stages of reintegration" O'Brien tells Winston?
2. What does Winston find out about The Book?
3. Winston learns why the Party wants power. What is this reason?
4. How has Winston changed physically during his imprisonment? What does he do after he sees himself in the mirror?
5. What is Winston's answer when O'Brien asks, "Can you think of a single degradation that has not happened to you?" How does O'Brien respond to Winston?
6. While Winston is exercising himself in Crimestop, he calls out, "Julia! Julia! Julia, my love! Julia!" What happens to him as a result?
7. What does O'Brien say is in Room 101?
8. During the scene with the cage, what is in the cage? What happens at the end of this scene?
9. What happens when Winston and Julia meet after they have been released?
10. What is Winston thinking at the end of the novel?

Appendix, Afterword

1. What is Newspeak and what is its purpose?
2. According to the Afterword, what do you think is the mood and warning expressed in the novel 1984?
3. With what real concept from the time period around 1961 does George Orwell connect to the dictatorial society in 1984?
4. In the Afterword, what point about doublethink is made?
5. According to the Afterword, what warning is Orwell giving anyone who reads 1984?