



IDX G10 English H

Study Guide Issue S1M2

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1. Key Concepts & Definitions

- 1. Pallid: Lacking healthy color; pale and wan.
- 2. Callow: Inexperienced and immature.
- 3. Abjectly: In an extremely humble, miserable, or degrading way.
- 4. Foil: In an overly elaborate or excessively decorated manner.
- 5. Viviparous: Giving birth to live young rather than laying eggs. (Mention: women can't live normally.)
- 6. Ruddy: Having a healthy, reddish color.
- 7. Peritoneum: The membrane lining the abdominal cavity and covering the abdominal organs.
- 8. Stuffy: Hot and humid in a way that feels oppressive; used to describe the condition of a lake.
- 9. Demijohn: A large, narrow-necked bottle, often encased in wicker.
- 10. Ingenuous: Innocent, open, sincere; showing no deceit.
- 11. Aseptic: Completely clean and free from germs.
- 12. Apoplectic: So angry that you can hardly speak or function.
- 13. Suffuse: To spread through or over something.
- 14. Gratuitous: Uncalled for; done without a good reason.
- 15. Stridulant: Making a harsh, shrill sound; like stridulation.

- 16. Patronizing: Treating someone with an apparent kindness that betrays a feeling of superiority.
- 17. Cordiality: Warmth and friendliness in behavior or speech.
- 18. Perplexed: Feeling confused or puzzled by something.
- 19. Treacherous: Dangerous or deceptive, often implying betrayal or hidden harm.
- 20. Discarnate: Without a physical body; existing only as a spirit or mind.
- 21. Axiomatic: Self-evident; accepted as obviously true without needing proof.
- 22. Truculently: Behaving in a hostile, aggressive, or defiant way.
- 23. Sententiously: Speaking in a moralizing, preachy, or overly serious manner.

2. Historical & Fictional Timeline (Dystopia Context)

- 1900: Gregor Mendel's seminal studies of genetic inheritance are rediscovered and replicated.
- 1908: Ford releases the first Model T car (assembly line).
- 1921: The American Eugenics Society is founded.
- 1927: Aldous Huxley begins writing his dystopian novel. · Warner Bros. releases the first sound-synchronized motion picture (The Jazz Singer).
- 1932: Aldous Huxley's Brave New World is published.
- Setting: England in the year 2540 A.F. (After Ford).
- Narrative Style: Third-person omniscient.
- 1932 (Alternative Note): Aldous Huxley believed that utopia would lead to dystopia.
- WWI: Creates The League of Nations (1919).

3. Scientific Figures & Experiments

- (1) John B. Watson ("The Little Albert Experiment"): Used an unconditioned fearful response (to loud noises) to condition a child to fear a separate distinctive stimulus (a white rat) that normally would not be feared.

- (2) Aldous/Benjamin Saliger (Fictional): Invented the "Psycho-Phone," a device that delivers suggestions to the unconscious mind during natural sleep.

4. Core Themes (*Brave New World*)

- · Stability vs. Freedom
 - The government controls every part of life: birth, jobs, emotions, and even relationships.
 - People are not born naturally. They are grown in Hatcheries using machines.
 - Babies are divided into castes (Alpha, Beta, Gamma, Delta, Epsilon).
 - Each caste is created with different intelligence levels on purpose.
 - Everyone is conditioned from birth to like their role, even if it is unfair.
- · Truth vs. Happiness
 - Soma
 - People take soma, a drug that removes sadness and stress.
 - Soma stops people from feeling real emotions or thinking deeply.
 - Soma is used to prevent conflict—people stay calm and happy.
- · Science/Technology
 - The World State uses conditioning to control people's thoughts.
 - Babies are taught through sleep-teaching (hypnopaedia) to accept rules.
 - People repeat phrases like “Ending is better than mending” to encourage consumerism.
 - Science is only used when it helps the government keep society stable.
 - Anything that causes deep thinking or strong emotions is removed.
- · Consumerism
 - People must always buy new things instead of reusing old ones.
 - Recreation includes games that require lots of equipment, so people keep spending.
 - The society survives through constant consumption — it keeps the economy running.
- · Open Sexuality vs. Traditional Nuclear Family

- · Individuality vs. Conformity
 - John – Individualism
 - He reads Shakespeare and believes in love, passion, and freedom.
 - When he visits the World State, he is shocked by the lack of emotion and individuality.
 - Lenina – Conformity
 - Lenina follows the rules of the World State.
 - She likes comfort, pleasure, and stability.
 - She is confused by people who want deeper emotions, like Bernard or John.
 - Bernard Marx - Individualism
 - Bernard feels different from others even though he is an Alpha.
 - He sometimes wants freedom and deeper feelings.
 - But he also wants approval from society and struggles with insecurity.

5. Literary Notes

- · Aldous Huxley Quote: "O brave new world, that has such people in't!" (Miranda, The Tempest). Quoted by John "the Savage" in Brave New World when he first sees the "civilized" world, with irony.
- · Dystopia Definition: An imagined state or society in which there is great suffering or injustice, typically one that is totalitarian or post-apocalyptic.
- · Speculative Fiction: A super-genre that includes science fiction, using its framework to focus on human conditioning and social development under technological assumptions.
- · Conditioning Quote: "If a candy [is given to] the child, you don't need to teach them." (Illustrates operant conditioning through reward).
- · Observation: "Most men & women will grow up to love their servitude... and will never dream of revolution." – A core dystopian fear.