

ONE, I

1. How is paradox involved with the descriptions of the government ministries?
2. What is ironic about the statement that “nothing was illegal, since there were no longer any laws”?
3. What is the effect of the syntax in Winston’s journal entry for April 4th, 1984?
4. What contradictions appear in O’Brien’s physical description?
5. What are some techniques used on the telescreen to encourage the Party members’ hatred of Goldstein? What is the source of the power behind the hatred that the viewers feel?
6. Comment on diction and syntax in Winston’s “hallucinations” on page 15?

II

1. Explain the meaning behind the statement “We shall meet in the place where there is no darkness”.
2. How can the reader tell that Winston has become desensitized to the war?
3. How does Winston’s descent into thoughtcrime give his life more urgency?

III

1. Explain the significance of Winston’s dream in the saloon of a ship.
2. Explain the effect of the allusion to Shakespeare on page 31.
3. What is the most powerful element of Julia’s careless nudity on page 31?
4. Why does the Party never acknowledge when it changes from fighting Eurasia to Eastasia?

IV

1. What is the metaphoric meaning of the memory holes?
2. What is the effect of the tone in the paragraph that begins with “Winston dialed back numbers” on page 38?
3. Why are people allowed to leave the Ministry of Love for a year or two before being executed for thoughtcrimes?
4. What is the effect of Winston’s inner debate over how to honor Comrade Ogilvy?

V

1. What is perhaps the most grotesque sign of the desensitization that has taken place in Oceania with regard to violence, in Syme and Winston’s conversation?
2. Is “ungood” clearer in meaning than “bad”? Why or why not?
3. What is the effect of comparing the man from the Fiction Department to a duck on page 54?
4. What is ironic about Parsons’ praise for the Ministry of Plenty on page 61?
5. How is humor used at the end of this section?

1984 Study Guide **Book I, VI-VIII**

ONE, VI

1. Why is the memory of the prostitute so frustrating for Winston?
2. According to the Party, what is the most harmful part of the sex act
3. What has Winston come to want most about sex? What is the significance of this?

VII

1. Why is it ironic that the proles get so outraged by a shortage of cooking pots?
2. What is ironic about the Party's claims that, before the Revolution, children had been sold into factories at age six?
3. Why are the Party's statistics meaningless?
4. Identify the foreshadowing on page 80.

VIII

1. What is the effect of the whiff of genuine coffee at the beginning of this section?
2. How is the Party interaction at the Community Center compared to a machine?
3. What, to the proles, is a "serious piece of news"?
4. What is the effect of the old man's complaints about the change from pints to half-liters of beer?
5. Why does Winston purchase the piece of coral?
6. Why is it ironic that Winston chooses not to buy the picture on the wall on pages 98 and 99?

1984 Study Guide **Book II, I-V**

TWO, I

1. What is ironic (and even funny) about Winston's thoughts when Julia hands him a note?
2. What is the effect that Julia's note has on Winston?
3. What is significant about the statue of Oliver Cromwell on page 114?
4. Explain the effect of the juxtaposition at the end of this section.

II

1. How has Julia's sash changed, in Winston's mind?
2. Why does Winston have difficulty at first with Julia?
3. What is ironic about the fact that Julia saw Winston's rebellion from his physical expression?
4. Why is the singing bird so hard for Winston to comprehend?
5. What does Winston find most erotically attractive about Julia?

III

1. Explain this sentence from page 131: "She hated the Party, and said so in the crudest words, but she made no general criticism of it."
2. According to Julia, why does the Party frown on sex for pleasure?

IV

1. What is it that makes Winston at last feel tenderness toward Julia?
2. How does Winston misunderstand the song of the prole woman below the window?
3. How have Winston and Julia reversed traditional gender roles in this room?

V

1. What is the effect of the increased bomb raids leading up to Hate Week?
2. What is the effect of diction in the paragraph that begins "Sometimes he talked to her..." on page 154?

1984 Study Guide **Book II, VI-X**

TWO, VI

1. Winston interprets O'Brien's oblique reference to Syme as a shared act of thoughtcrime. How is this later shown to be an example of irony?

VII

1. What tendency in Winston's mother has been driven out of people in Oceania?

2. How is the following statement ironic?

"[The Party] can make you say anything—anything—but they can't make you believe it. They can't get inside you".

VIII

1. Winston cannot taste the wine he is offered, because of all the gin he had drunk throughout his life. What is the rhetorical effect of this?

2. How is the Brotherhood similar to the lottery?

IX

1. What is the significance of the tremendous amount of work that Winston's department has to do when Oceania's enemy changes?

2. According to Chapter 3 of Goldstein's book, why is War Peace?

3. What are the historical parallels for Ingsoc, Neo-Bolshevism, and Obliteration of the Self?

4. How do these enemies actually benefit each other?

5. What made the ruling class of Ingsoc different from ruling classes in prior eras?

6. What is the primary reason that groups revolt?

7. What is ironic about Winston's attitude after reading Chapters 1 and 3?

X

1. How does the tone in the first half of this section belie the second half?

1984 Study Guide **Book III, I-VI**

I

1. Why doesn't Winston explore further the possibility that the woman in his cell might be his mother?
2. Does Winston truly love Julia?
3. What does O'Brien mean when he says, "They got me a long time ago"?

II

1. What is the significance of this sentence from page 244?
"He was the tormentor, he was the protector, he was the inquisitor, he was the friend."
2. According to O'Brien, what is the true purpose of the Ministry of Love?
3. How is punishment in the Ministry of Love equivalent to execution?

III

1. Why does O'Brien tell Winston the truth about the Party's motives?
2. What is significant about Winston's recognition of his own physical degradation? Why does O'Brien refer to him as "the last man"?
3. What fact does Winston believe saves his humanity?

IV

1. What is one sign that Winston has been permanently weakened mentally by his time in the Ministry of Love?
2. What betrays Winston's last level of resistance to Big Brother?

V

1. How does Winston know how to escape the rats, ultimately?
2. Why is it significant how he escapes the rats?

VI

1. What is the most significant change in Julia's body, according to Winston?
2. What is the significance of Winston's increased consumption of gin?
3. Near the end, Winston daydreams about the "long-hoped-for bullet...entering his brain". What is this bullet?