

1984 Questions

Book I, I-V

All questions are to be answered on a separate sheet of paper and in complete sentences and must include MLA citations from the text to support the answers. Please see owl.english.purdue.edu for the most recent changes to MLA.

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”?

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.
3. What is the most powerful element of Julia’s careless nudity?
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”?
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?
4. What is ironic about Parsons' praise for the Ministry of Plenty?
5. How is humor used at the end of this section?

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 in this chapter.

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?