

## 1984 Small Group Discussion Questions

### Directions:

- Select two character-related questions and note how characters interact with others to advance the plot or develop theme.
- Select two structure-related questions. Look for parallel plots, flashbacks, mystery, or tension.

### Part One

#### Chapter 4 Questions:

1. Explain the function of the memory holes?
2. Why was it necessary to rewrite a paragraph of the speech of BB (Big Brother)?
3. What is Ampleforth's job in the Ministry of Truth?
4. List at least **three** different jobs that the Records Department did.

#### Chapter 5 Questions:

5. What department did Syme belong to and what big project is he working on? What does Syme ask for from Winston?

What did Syme go watch yesterday?

What does Syme say is his chief job with the new edition?

6. Explain how Newspeak can eliminate synonyms and antonyms.

How will Newspeak eventually eliminate Thought Crime?

How does Syme define Orthodoxy?

What is Winston convinced will happen to Syme eventually?

What does Winston mean when he thinks that the man who is speaking was not with his brain but "with his larynx"?

Why is the Chestnut Tree Café an ill-omened place to hang out?

7. Explain the situation with Parsons' daughter. Why did she think the guy was a foreigner?

**Over**

What probably happened to the guy, according to Parsons?

8. What does Winston notice about the news about the chocolate rations?

What kind of bug does Winston think most people in the ministries look like?

9. What is comically ironic about Parsons asking for razor blades right after his reaction to the news from the Ministry of Plenty?

Who does Winston notice is sitting at the next table?

To wear an improper expression on your face is punishable. What is the name of this crime? Why had Parsons children set fire to a woman's skirt before?

#### **Chapter 6 Questions:**

10. What experience is Winston Smith writing about in his journal at the beginning of this chapter?

What example does Winston think of to prove his thought, "Your worst enemy [is] your nervous system"?

Who is Katherine? What was a nickname he had for Katherine?

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Why did he have this nickname for her? What was "Our duty to the Party"?

#### **Chapter 7 Questions:**

11. What percentage of the population did the proles make up?

What methods are used to easily keep the proles in control?

For the health of the Party, the proles need not to have strong political feelings; rather, they need to have \_\_\_\_\_.

12. What does Winston copy from?

**Over**

What does this book have to say about capitalism?

What is jus primae noctis?

What kind of work did Rutherford used to do? What does Winston notice about Aaronson and Rutherford's faces?

13. Explain what concrete evidence Winston once held that confessions are forced lies. In front of the telescreen, you can control most of the signs that can cause you to be arrested.

But what is difficult to control that the telescreen can pick up on?

Perhaps a lunatic was simply a \_\_\_\_\_.

What is the important axiom that Winston writes?

Explain the meaning behind this axiom.