

Brave New World: Establishing a Philosophical Baseline

Each statement covers a major theme from *Brave New World*. Please write “yes” next to the statement if you agree with it, and “no” if you disagree. If you aren’t sure, write what sounds best to you in *most* cases; while it’s important to recognize the nuances of our world, it’s also interesting to see which side you lean toward. **Do not write “I don’t know” or “Both” under any circumstances.**

There are no “correct” answers, but the sheet will help predict how you will react to the text (which is why it’s important to choose one side or the other). Think carefully as you choose your answers, and write several sentences (at least) responding to each statement. **You must include examples – real ones from life or art, not hypothetical situations or straw men – whenever you’re explaining and justifying your choices.** We will discuss these over the next couple of weeks, and well-thought-out positions make for better talks!

You will respond to eight of the fifteen prompts in a single Word document, which will be due at **Turnitin.com only** by **11:59pm on Sunday, March 22nd!**

- a. _____ Happiness is humanity’s most important goal/pursuit.
- b. _____ I can do virtually any job – anything - as long as I don’t hate it, but I can’t do something I hate for a living.
- c. _____ There is no reason to suffer anything if said suffering can be avoided.
- d. _____ Isolation is a terrible thing.
- e. _____ Technology holds the key to our continued development as a species.
- f. _____ I can still find comfort in believing something if no one else believes it.
- g. _____ I consciously choose my friendships, and don’t maintain relationships with anyone I don’t need.
- h. _____ I don’t like old things – old books, relics, heirlooms, etc.
- i. _____ Spirituality is incompatible with progress, particularly of the technological variety.
- j. _____ Whenever I do anything, I seek the path of least resistance.
- k. _____ Family is convenient, but ultimately unnecessary.
- l. _____ I prefer black-and-white issues to shades of grey.
- m. _____ Education is important because it “normalizes” members of society by giving them the skills they need to be like one another.
- n. _____ Social structure depends on stability, and stability – more than anything else – depends on how comfortable and secure a populace is at any given moment.
- o. _____ I avoid pain whenever possible; if I could snap my fingers and erase unhappiness, struggle, or personal failure, I would.