

Reading Passage

The topic of a dystopian society is one that is used frequently in literature. Authors often utilize such situations in their writing to satirize the society around them, or to provide a warning against what may happen to the world. Three of the most prominent dystopia literature novels are *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley, 1984 by George Orwell, and *Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury. In each of these novels, the respective author is attempting to accomplish a certain goal. In *Brave New World*, Huxley is warning society about the dangers of becoming too hedonistic and technologically advanced. Huxley also satirizes people who are constantly in pursuit of instant happiness. With the writing of 1984, George Orwell is warning against leaders who are hungry for power, who would not hesitate to strip individuals of every freedom if it meant prolonging their control. Lastly, in *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury was responding to America's cultural environment in the 1950's, warning against extreme censorship, the disappearance of real relationships, and the development of a very fast-paced society.<

As with most dystopian novels, the authors chose to include certain dystopian characteristics in their writing. Such characters and situations include powerful governing bodies, social classes, skewed relationships between individuals, a skewed sense of identity, censorship, technology, brainwashing, and rebellion by certain characters. In most dystopian literature, the governing body exerts a great amount of control over the lives of the people, often controlling their very actions and thoughts. The citizens are divided into distinct social classes, and they have no control over the matter. Oftentimes, the government will predetermine the identity of an individual, and emotionally, all subjects are identical. In a dystopian society, the government uses several key methods in an attempt to control the lives of individuals and to mandate the mere identities of individuals. For example,

Questions

1. According to the passage, what is an author's main objective when writing a dystopian society?
 - a. To foreshadow what society and societal class hierarchies may become if nothing is done to prevent power-hungry governments from attempting to assume absolute power.
 - b. To predict the eventual class structure of societies where citizens are made to devoutly adhere to a set of principles that are set forth by virtue of majority vote.
 - c. To downgrade the positive effect of introducing technology to a society where people are brainwashed and where the government has absolute power.
 - d. To influence current state and federal government's to relinquish their incessant desire to mandate fiscal and maritime laws.
 - e. To nauseate the readers of such novels in an attempt to influence societies to become agitated and choose to overthrow their governments.

 2. Which of the following topics could be a valid main idea for the next paragraph in the essay?
 - a. An explanation of technology and how it has changed modern-day societies.
 - b. A discussion of the differences of the use of literary techniques employed by Huxley, Orwell, and Bradbury.
 - c. An explanation of America's cultural environment in 1984.
 - d. A discussion of a future dystopian novel that is yet unpublished.
 - e. A discussion of the dangers of becoming hedonistic.
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censorship is defined psychologically as the "prevention of disturbing or painful thoughts or feelings from reaching consciousness except in a disguised form," and in dystopian novels, those people who have absolute power claim that censorship protects the people for their own good. However, dystopian rules also use censorship to ensure that the supreme leadership and dictatorship of the leading quorum is maintained. Similarly, technology is "the application of science, especially to industrial or commercial objectives," and it is generally assumed that technology is crucial for any powerful nation or state. However, in dystopian societies, technology is used only to further the goals of the government. Lastly, brainwashing is "the application of a concentrated means of persuasion, such as an advertising campaign or repeated suggestion, in order to develop a specific belief or motivation," and all citizens in a dystopian society have had their minds molded through the use of brainwashing techniques.

3. Which of the following can be inferred from the passage?
 - a. Citizens should be divided into separate classes so that there is no communication between them.
 - b. Technology should only be used to help further the economic and social well-being of all people.
 - c. George Orwell was as ardent an advocate of Huxley's passionate depiction of censored societies.
 - d. Today's social classes are at the mercy of the government.
 - e. All members of a dystopian society are free to choose to go wherever they please, but their mode of thought is highly regulated.

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