

Worksheet 9 – The Legacy of 1984

Review: Lecture 8: O'Brien

Complete this quotation: “[O'Brien] had the appearance of being someone you could...”

Recall: Lecture 9: The Legacy of 1984

Answer these questions after watching the video lecture to check how much you remember.

1. In the lecture Dr Waddell discusses many modern phenomena that are either inspired by *1984* or have echoes of the novel. Which one of these does he NOT discuss?
- a) Extreme politics
 - b) Surveillance culture
 - c) Video games
 - d) Manipulation of the media

Bonus question : according to Dr Waddell, what about social media is ‘distinctly Orwellian’?

2. Which one of these novels is a direct response to *1984*?
- a) *1985*
 - b) *1Q84*
 - c) *The Handmaid's Tale*
 - d) *The Children of Men*
3. According to critic Christopher Hitchens, the novel is about the ‘awful pleasures of _____’?
- a) Watching
 - b) Betrayal
 - c) Servility
 - d) Violence

Analysis

4. Watch this video from the BBC titled: *George Orwell's 1984 – Why It Still Matters*, and write down 5-10 things you learn from the video. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eFvuzu8vtY8>

Extension task: read this article from The Atlantic on what 1984 means today and add to your notes from the task above.

Evaluation

5. Choose **one** of the following questions, and write an essay in response to it:
- a) Winston thinks, “They could not alter your feelings; for that matter, you could not alter them yourself, even if you wanted to.” Can people change their deeply-held feelings about important topics in their lives?
 - b) Think of instances where our thinking is influenced, or even controlled. How is this similar to (or different from) the controlled society of *1984*?
 - c) Which is more important: creating big political change (such as Winston wants) or keeping oneself free (as Julia maintains)?
 - d) Many people think that our modern world has become much like the world of Oceania in *1984*. Do you think that there are some significant similarities between the two or not? Explain, using examples from both the novel and modern society.

Glossary

- **Legacy** – Something left behind by someone or something from the past.
e.g. The war left behind a legacy of pain and suffering.
- **Bequeath** – Leave behind something in your will; to pass something on or leave something to someone else.
e.g. He bequeathed his art collection to his eldest daughter.
- **Idiom** – A phrase or expression that has a non-literal meaning.
e.g. “Over the moon” is an example of a popular idiom in English.
- **Protestations** – An object or protest; a passionate response to doubt or accusation.
e.g. His protestations of innocence were in vain.
- **Testament** – Something that serves as evidence of something.
e.g. Growing attendance figures were testament to the school’s popularity.