Brave New World

Book key

1 Open answers

2 a contraceptive, embryo, fertilize, hatch
   b savage, whore
   c committee, corporation, generation

3 a X b ✓ c X d ✓ e X f ✓ g X h ✓
   i X j X

4 a According to the Director, workers should only know what is necessary to do their job intelligently. ‘Generalities are dangerous.’
   b All babies are produced artificially. Biological engineering leads to a stable and happy society.
   c The social grade of future human beings is determined before birth. People are made to like their ‘unavoidable place in society.’
   d Some embryos are conditioned to be Alpha-Pluses, people who will be ‘controllers.’
   e Low-grade people are conditioned as children to hate flowers. Nature is free, so there is no good economic reason for low-grade people to like it.
   f Country sports are economically useful. Lower classes are conditioned to love it because they need to buy expensive equipment and use transport.
   g There are no mothers and fathers, and people find the idea of them disgusting and embarrassing.
   h Children have Class Consciousness lessons while they sleep. Each social grade learns to hate those people in different social grades, which creates social stability and avoids dissatisfaction.
   i They are discouraged. (Fanny disapproves of the length of Lenina’s relationship with Henry Foster.) The convention is for people to have sex with different partners. This avoids passion and love, which would make people less obedient to authority.
   j Bernard has a bad reputation partly because he spends most of his time by himself. When people are alone, they will probably spend too much time thinking, which is dangerous for society.

5 a Eggs are kept alive in test tubes, examined, put into a warm solution where they are fertilized, then put back into bottles for various lengths of time (depending on whether they will be treated with Bokanovsky’s Process or not). This biological engineering leads to social stability.
   b The DHC is the Director of Hatching and Conditioning.
   c Henry Ford started the first factory for the mass-production of cars. He has now become the god of the New World and the word ‘Ford’ is used instead of ‘Lord’.
   d Embryos are divided into five different groups. Alphas are the top group, the future ‘controllers’. Epsilons are the lowest group, the future factory workers.
   e With Bokanovsky’s Process, one egg can produce between eight and ninety-six embryos. The standardization of lower-class men and women leads to social stability.
   f Pigs’ stomachs, used for keeping eggs in, are kept in the Organ Store, which is below the Bottling Room.
   g The Conditioning Rooms are where infants have their future behaviour shaped (for example, where Delta children are conditioned to hate nature).
   h Reuben Rabinovitch was the child of Polish-speaking parents. He heard a long lecture on the radio by George Bernard Shaw while he was sleeping and could remember every word of it when he woke up. The principle of sleep-teaching had been discovered.
   i Sleep-teaching is a powerful force in social education. While they are sleeping, children listen to propaganda repeatedly, which shapes their minds and their attitudes in late life.
   j These are special belts which prevent women from becoming pregnant.

6–7 Open answers

8 a Henry Foster b Helmholtz Watson
c phosphorus d ‘Ford’ e the Greater Being
f Amsterdam g the sea h meat
i the Director’s girlfriend / lover
j the dance in the village

9 a He feels embarrassed and confused, because other people can hear her accepting his invitation.
   b He is very popular socially, but his superiors are worried that he has too much ability.
   c He knows that there is something more to life, but he does not know what it is.
   d He does not enjoy it because he can not make himself believe in the Greater Being.
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e  She thinks that he is odd because he does not enjoy conventional activities and he says strange things. After they spend the night together, she cannot understand why he is sad. However, she still likes him (because he has nice hands and moves his shoulders attractively!).

f  He thinks that Bernard has not been conditioned efficiently, but that he is good at his job and basically harmless.

g  She is frightened by the emptiness of the night, the sea, the moon and the silence. She is also confused and upset by Bernard's comments about his need to be alone.

h  He feels sad because they spent the night together too quickly. He would have preferred more passion and emotional depth.

i  He thinks that Bernard is a good worker, but is angry because Bernard behaves unconventionally outside working hours.

j  He has no respect for them and thinks that their habits and customs are shameful.

10–12 Open answers

13 a  b  c  d  e  f  g  h  i  i  l  j  k  l

14 a  Lenina is talking to Bernard about the dirtiness of the village. In her opinion, cleanliness is an important virtue, and she cannot understand why the Indians live in such a way.

b  Lenina is talking to Bernard about the whipping of the boy in the village square.

c  Linda is talking to Bernard and Lenina about how she became pregnant.

d  Linda is talking to Bernard and Lenina about her son. She thinks that John's disapproval of her various lovers was a form of madness that he had caught from the Indians.

e  John said this to his mother when he was a little boy and his mother started hitting him because he had accidentally touched her injured shoulder.

f  Linda was talking to John about the book of Shakespeare's plays that Popé had brought.

g  One of the men of the village said this to John when he was sixteen and tried to learn the secrets that would make him a man.

h  John is talking to Bernard but thinking about Lenina when he quotes Miranda's words from Shakespeare's The Tempest.

i  The Director is talking to the people in the Fertilizing Room about Bernard.

j  The Director is talking angrily to Bernard after Linda has appeared, claiming to be the Director's long-lost lover.

15–17 Open answers

18 a  b  c  d  e  f  g  h  i  j  k

19 a  • Bernard is puzzled because John does not admire and is not surprised by civilized inventions.

b  is interested in 'the soul'.

c  is fond of his mother, despite her ugliness and weak mental state.

• The nurse is puzzled by John's grief when his mother dies.

b  Open answers

20 a  John (to Bernard)  b  Helmholtz (to John)

b  Fanny (to Lenina)  d  the nurse (to John)

+ Open answers

21–22 Open answers

23 a  Deltas (not Epsilons)  b  pleased (not angry)

c  never (not soon)  d  dangerous (not useful)

e  admits (not denies)  f  religion (not films)

g  decides / chooses (not has)  h  bush (not river)

i  film (not story)  j  imitate (not criticize)

24 a  People would be attracted to them and they would be less interested in new things.

b  It would be dangerous because it would make people think about passion and death. This would prevent them from being happy and would create social instability.

c  People would be unhappier and unable to forget their problems (if they had any). This would threaten social stability.

d  People would not be able to see silly love films and would lose a lot of 'good feelings.'

e  Lower-class people would be individually different and this would threaten social stability.
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f  Higher-class people would go mad if they had to do lower-class jobs.
g  There would be unrest and people would take too much soma.
h  People would have too much leisure time, because a lot of work would be unnecessary.
i  A third of the population (agricultural workers) would lose their jobs.

25  a  He is afraid and does not help John and Helmholtz in the hospital. He also starts crying in front of John and Helmholtz, and begs Mustapha Mond not to punish him.
   b  People do not grow weak and old and never think about death. ‘Where there is comfort, there is no need of God.’
   c  Possible answers: He feels that there is no place for him either in the Old World or the New World; he cannot live without beauty, truth or freedom.
   d  He seems to enjoy Shakespeare, although it is forbidden; he agrees that Othello is better than the love films at the cinema; he agrees that modern writers are stupid; he agrees that God probably exists.
   e  He would prefer God, poetry, danger, freedom, goodness and sin to empty, emotionless comfort.
   f  To go to the Falkland Islands with Helmholtz.
   g  It is quiet and lonely; it has a beautiful view of trees, flowers and lakes; there are no golf clubs in the area and there is no reason for any visitors.
   h  Three Delta-minus land workers.
   i  A reporter from The Hourly Radio who is John’s first (unwelcome) visitor.
   j  A TV photographer who secretly makes a film of John.

26–36  Open answers

Discussion activities key

1–2  Open answers
3  Suggested answer:
   There are different levels of society. Each level has different jobs and functions and they cannot move between them.
   Women do not give birth to babies any more and people do not have sex in order to have children.
   A woman’s eggs are artificially fertilized in a test tube.

For the lower levels of society, identical human beings are created from one egg. (This egg is called a bokanovskified egg).
Individuals should have more than one sexual partner over a period of time so that they don’t become emotionally involved.
Individuals are conditioned from the time that they are embryos to behave and think in certain ways for the ‘good’ of society. The secret of happiness and virtue is liking what you’ve got to do.
Social stability is considered essential for society.
It is dangerous for society if people think too deeply.

4–5  Open answers
6  Suggested answers:
   a  Lenina is a typical product of her society and, in society’s view, a perfect product.
      She has been well-conditioned and believes everything she is told to believe. Bernard is very different. He deeply questions society and is not satisfied either with society or himself. He feels inferior because of his height and this has caused him to question things. Whereas society wants individuals to work for the good of society, Bernard wants to be an individual, to be free to choose. He wants to have a real emotional relationship with a woman, not just a sexual relationship.
   b  Open answer

7–9  Open answers
10  Suggested answer:
   Bernard means that his society makes you into ‘somebody else’. It does not allow you to be yourself – it conditions you to behave in certain way and gives you the drug soma so that you feel happy.
   In Brave New World, people are not allowed to feel real, deep emotions. Their emotions are controlled and safe. They take the drug soma in order to feel happy. No one is allowed to experience unhappiness.

11–18  Open answers
19  Suggested answer:
   People are happy. They get what they want and they never want what they can’t get. They’re safe. They’re never ill. They’re not afraid of death. They know nothing of passion and old age. They’ve got no relatives to feel strongly about. And if anything should go wrong, there’s soma. The Controller says that the Bokanovsky.
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Groups are the basis for this stability because they are conditioned to actually enjoy doing simple, undemanding work. But the World Controllers make sure that the Bokanovsky Groups have enough work to do, because otherwise they get restless. Mustapha Mond also says that the World Controllers are very careful about using new inventions because every discovery in pure science could lead to a revolution.

20–26 Open answers

Activity worksheets key

1  a  This is the year the story takes place in: AF 632
  b  The male fertilizing agents for the eggs are kept at 37 degrees.
  c  The fertilized eggs are divided into five groups: Alphas, Betas, Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons.
  d  After 36 hours on the shelves, the Gammas, Deltas and Epsilons are treated by Bokanovsky's process.
  e  Bokanovsky's process produces a good average of 72 eggs, with 96 as the limit, from one fertilized egg.
  f  By the 267th day, the embryos have become living people.
  g  The Director of Production arranges to meet Lenina on the roof at ten to five.
  h  A group of 250 future rocket engineers are at a point on the moving belt where they are spun by a machine at a certain speed.

2  a  The Director of Production says these words to a group of students.
  b  The director is explaining why the Centre produces a large number of embryos being from an egg and then gives these embryos a particular kind of treatment. For example, if an embryo is intended to become a worker in a hot country, then the embryo will be conditioned to love heat and fear cold. If the embryo is intended to become a rocket engineer, then it is conditioned to have an unusually good sense of balance.
  c and d Open answers

3  a  They are dressed in light brown clothes, they are conditioned to dislike books because they are considered too 'low-grade' to waste time on such things. They are conditioned to dislike flowers because a love of nature does not keep factories busy: nature is free. However, they are also taught to love all country sports (which require expensive equipment.)
  b  Because the idea of men and women having sex in order to have babies is considered immoral. Babies are only created in laboratories.
  c  You learn what you hear in your sleep.
  d  They are told that Gamma, Delta and Epsilon children are stupid, so they don't want to play with them. Also, Epsilon children wear black, which is an ugly colour. Alpha children work too hard.
  e  Elementary Sex, Elementary Class Consciousness.

4  Open answers

5  a  Lenina and Fanny Crowne: They are friends but Fanny is critical of Lenina's relationships with men. They are both Alpha-Pluses.
  b  Lenina and Henry Foster. Lenina has been going out with Henry for four months and has not seen any other man during that time, which is unusual.
  c  Lenina and the Director: The Director touched Lenina on the bottom that afternoon – an example of correct manners.
  d  Lenina and Bernard Marx: Lenina thinks Bernard is rather sweet, even though he is ugly and small.

6  a  Lenina mentions it. Open answers
  b  Open answers

7  a  … she behaves towards him like a good English girl ought to behave and not in some other, unusual, extraordinary way. Bernard wants a more personal relationship with Lenina.
  b  … he is eight centimetres short of the standard Alpha height.
  c  … they both feel uncomfortably alone in society.
  d  … he has too much ability. He is excellent at everything but feels there is something important that is missing in his life.
  e  … he feels what he says isn't important enough and has no power.
  f  … he feels that Bernard is too self-pitying and does not have enough pride in himself.

8  a  False. People's bodies are burnt after their death in crematoriums.
  b  False. The chimneys have platforms to recover phosphorous from the air.
  c  True.
  d  False. Bernard finds Morgana Rothschild unattractive because of her eyebrows.
  e  False. In the Unity Service, twelve Alpha people meet and listen to music that creates a feeling of ecstasy and unity between them. They dance and sing and finally have sex together.
  f  True.
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9  Open answers
10  a  Henry Foster
    b  Bernard
    c  Bernard
    d  Bernard
    e  Fanny
    f  The Director
    g  The Director
    h  The Director of the Reservation
    i  The pilot who flies Bernard and Lenina to the Reservation.

11  Lenina hates the bad smells and the dirt – her society is clean and sterile. She is shocked when she sees a very old man. In her society people are kept well by science until sixty and then you die. She is horrified when she sees two women breastfeeding their babies – this is unknown in her society and seems disgusting. She is shocked by the fact that, in the Indian dance, the boy is beaten and bleeds – she is not used to seeing blood.

12  a  She sleeps with other women's husbands and thinks it is all right to do so. She doesn't know how to mend clothes.
    b  The women come and beat Linda. They don't allow John to learn the secrets of the temple with the other boys.

13  a  William Shakespeare, who lived from 1564–1616, was an English dramatist. It is generally agreed that he is one of the greatest writers that ever lived. His plays are world-famous for their drama, their ideas, and the extraordinarily poetic use of language. Perhaps Shakespeare's plays have made John think about life. They may also have given him a sense of beauty and poetry.
    b  Open answer

14  Linda needs soma and feels she cannot live without it. She takes very large and frequent amounts of it – so large that the soma will kill her soon. On the Savage reservation she used alcohol in the same way. Linda uses soma because she is desperately unhappy. The Savage does not want to touch soma and hates his mother using it. Perhaps, when he saw his mother's frequent drinking on the reservation, he decided that he did not want to use a drug of some kind to make him artificially happy. Lenina takes soma if she feels she could be happier. But she is careful not to take too much.

15  Lenina is sexually attracted to the Savage and wants to sleep with him – for her this is normal. She cannot understand his refusal to sleep with her and feels deeply hurt and rejected. The Savage is in love with Lenina, but because he lived among Indians, he believes that a man and woman should only sleep together when they live as man and wife. So when it becomes obvious to him that Lenina is happy to have casual sex with him he is very upset – he does not want to see her as this kind of woman.

16  a  He feels desperate and worried as he knows that his guests will be disappointed and angry with him.
    b  She feels deeply disappointed and experiences it as a personal rejection – she decides that John does not like her. She takes a larger amount of soma than usual because she feels so bad.
    c  He is sympathetic towards Bernard. He tells Bernard that he is more like the man he met in the Savage Reservation – unhappy but without the false, lying happiness he has in London society.
    d  They are shocked and horrified and report him to the Principal.
    e  He is very amused by the situation in the play. But he is also excited and interested by the passion that caused Shakespeare to write the play.

17  a  Open answer

18  The nurse is upset because the Savage appears to be upset by his mother's death and she cannot understand this. Also, he calls Linda his mother, a dirty word to the nurse. John is terribly sad to lose his mother but also feels angry with her – he shakes her shoulder and the next moment, she dies. He then cries 'as though his heart would break.' One of the Bokanovsky twins is upset because the Savage pushes him away and the child falls to the ground.

19  The Savage is courageous. He decides to fight for what he believes in and try to stop the Deltas from taking soma because this is what killed his mother (he also believes soma kills the soul.) But perhaps he is also rather stupid – how can he possibly succeed when there are so many people? Helmholtz is certainly courageous. He joins the Savage because he agrees with what the Savage is doing and wants to show that his criticism of society. He is not a stupid man – he knows what he is doing and that he cannot win – but he needs to make this protest.
Bernard is rather cowardly – he too is critical of society but he is too afraid to join the Savage and Helmholtz – he fears he will be hurt and punished. The Deltas are stupid – they only know that they want soma, they have not been taught to think, they think very slowly and forget things easily.

20 Mond says he will send them to an island, away from society, where they will find other people like them. Bernard is terrified and is carried out shouting and crying. His reaction shows that he does not really have the strength of his beliefs – there is a large part of him that still wants to belong to society. Helmholtz is pleased by his punishment and asks to be sent to a island with a bad climate, as he feels this will help him to write better. Helmholtz is an artist and is interested in beauty. He is a strong, brilliant man who has the courage of his convictions and is prepared to stand alone.

### Progress test key

1. a Wrong. The Bokanovsky process is used to create Deltas and Epsilons.
   b Right
   c Wrong. Epsilons are happy because they have been conditioned to accept their place in society.
   d Right
   e Wrong. It’s the Director of Hatching and Conditioning.

2. a B
   b B
   c H
   d H
   e H
   f H
   g B
   h B
   i H
   j B

3. a 2
   b 5
   c 4
   d 1
   e 3

4. a 3
   b 2
   c 1
   d 1
   e 2

5. a Because he chose to become a Controller.
   b To the islands
   c To the lighthouse
   d The reporters
   e He hung himself with a rope