

1984

Part 2 Chapters 6–10

by George Orwell

Pre-Reading Vocabulary Practice

Optional Post-Reading Quiz Included

Practice words: absolute, allusion, aspect, chronic, comprises, decisive, equilibrium, ideological, surplus, sustain

PRE-READING ACTIVITY

Vocabulary Preview 2

Answer Key — Preview 3

Caution: share only if self-checking

OPTIONAL POST-READING QUIZ

Vocabulary in Context 4

Answer Key — In Context 5

Caution: do not share with students

About the Pre-Reading Activity (open-dictionary; ungraded or completion grade):

Students preview 10 words from the upcoming reading, each in a sentence that supports understanding. They choose the best meaning from 3 choices.

About the Optional Post-Reading Quiz (use after reading, or skip):

Same words, now in real excerpts from the text, with questions that build reading and analytical skills.

Vocabulary Sections for this Book:

Section 1 · Part 1 Chapters 1–5 · Victory Mansions and the Ministry of Truth

Section 2 · Part 1 Chapters 6–8 · The diary and the prole districts

Section 3 · Part 2 Chapters 1–5 · A message in the corridor

Section 4 · Part 2 Chapters 6–10 · O'Brien makes contact with Winston

Section 5 · Part 3 Chapters 1–2 · A cell in the Ministry of Love

Section 6 · Part 3 Chapters 3–6 · The three stages of reintegration

Bold = this section. Other sections are available at verbalworkout.com.



verbalworkout.com

(all resources free)

Vocabulary Preview

1984

Part 2 Chapters 6–10

by George Orwell

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____

Read each prompt. Then choose the best meaning for the bold word.

1. In that kingdom the queen's authority was **absolute**.
 - A. unlimited in power
 - B. newly won by force
 - C. widely respected by all
2. Only a few readers caught the **allusion** in the poem's last line.
 - A. an indirect reference
 - B. an exact quotation
 - C. a private joke
3. In the fog the old mill took on a gloomy **aspect**.
 - A. the history a thing carries
 - B. the look a thing presents
 - C. the sound a thing makes
4. The town has a **chronic** shortage of teachers.
 - A. constant and never easing
 - B. growing worse each year
 - C. sudden and unexpected
5. The festival **comprises** three days of music and dance.
 - A. is made up of
 - B. is famous for
 - C. is a part of
6. One late mistake proved **decisive** in the championship match.
 - A. costly to the whole team
 - B. obvious to everyone watching
 - C. settling the result for good
7. The economy slowly returned to **equilibrium** after the crash.
 - A. a state of full employment
 - B. a state of balance
 - C. a state of rapid growth
8. The two parties split over **ideological** differences, not personal ones.
 - A. about regional loyalties
 - B. about money and budgets
 - C. about political beliefs
9. The harvest left the village with a **surplus**.
 - A. a rise in market prices
 - B. an amount left over
 - C. a drop in food quality
10. Only her sister's letters could **sustain** her through the long winter.
 - A. bring back happy memories
 - B. take attention off troubles
 - C. give strength to carry on

Reading Helpers

(Not quizzed — helpful for this text.)

lay-figure — an artist's jointed wooden mannequin, posed and moved by hand
persiflage — light mocking banter — as though the horrors were a joke
disposes — here, commands, not get rid of (commands 100s of millions of people)
dumb — voiceless — having no say, not stupid
cockney — the working-class London accent Charrington had been putting on

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary Preview

1984

Part 2 Chapters 6–10

by George Orwell

#	KEY
1	A
2	A
3	B
4	A
5	A
6	C
7	B
8	C
9	B
10	C

Vocabulary in Context

1984

Part 2 Chapters 6–10

by George Orwell

Name _____ Date _____ Period _____ Score _____ / 10

Read each excerpt carefully. Then choose the best answer to each question.

1 “Nothing holds it together except an idea which is indestructible. You will never have anything to sustain you, except the idea. You will get no comradeship and no encouragement.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘sustain’ most nearly means...

- A. give strength to carry on
- B. keep safe from all harm
- C. put up with as a burden

2 “‘In the place where there is no darkness?’ he said hesitantly. O’Brien nodded without appearance of surprise. ‘In the place where there is no darkness,’ he said, as though he had recognized the allusion.”

It can reasonably be inferred from ‘recognized the allusion’ that Winston’s phrase...

- A. pointed back to earlier words
- B. openly stated their meeting place
- C. hinted at O’Brien’s real rank

3 “Even after enormous upheavals and seemingly irrevocable changes, the same pattern has always reasserted itself, just as a gyroscope will always return to equilibrium, however far it is pushed one way or the other.”

The author most likely includes the gyroscope comparison in order to...

- A. show upheavals reshape society
- B. show progress moves one direction
- C. show society always rights itself

4 “Eurasia comprises the whole of the northern part of the European and Asiatic land-mass, from Portugal to the Bering Strait.”

As used in the passage, the word ‘comprises’ most nearly means...

- A. is made up of
- B. is a part of
- C. lies next to

5 “It is a warfare of limited aims between combatants who are unable to destroy one another, have no material cause for fighting and are not divided by any genuine ideological difference.”

It can reasonably be inferred that the three combatants...

- A. are fighting over scarce resources
- B. differ sharply in their political aims
- C. hold much the same political beliefs

6 “To understand the nature of the present war ... one must realize in the first place that it is impossible for it to be decisive. None of the three super-states could be definitively conquered even by the other two in combination.”

The information in the excerpt primarily functions to...

- A. explain how the war began
- B. explain why no side can win
- C. explain why the war is costly

7 “Ever since the end of the nineteenth century, the problem of what to do with the surplus of consumption goods has been latent in industrial society.”

According to the passage, what problem has industrial society faced since the late 1800s?

- A. having no machines to spare
- B. having more goods than needed
- C. having too few goods to sell

8 “In practice the needs of the population are always underestimated, with the result that there is a chronic shortage of half the necessities of life; but this is looked on as an advantage.”

According to the passage, underestimating people’s needs leaves shortages that are...

- A. constant and never relieved
- B. limited to luxury goods
- C. sudden and quickly fixed

9 “The rulers of such a state are absolute, as the Pharaohs or the Caesars could not be.”

The author most likely includes the comparison to the Pharaohs and the Caesars in order to...

- A. show their empire is larger
- B. show their power has no limits
- C. show their rule is older

10 “The mystical reverence that he felt for her was somehow mixed up with the aspect of the pale, cloudless sky, stretching away behind the chimney-pots into interminable distance.”

In the passage, the word ‘aspect’ most nearly means...

- A. one part of a thing
- B. the effect of a thing
- C. the look of a thing

ANSWER KEY

Vocabulary in Context

1984
Part 2 Chapters 6–10
by George Orwell

#	KEY	NOTE
1	A	The sense here is personal – what holds a person up – rather than the commoner 'keep something going'. O'Brien's point is that the idea alone must do the work friends and encouragement normally do.
2	A	A rare passage that names the move it is making: the phrase returns as an echo both men know, which is exactly what an allusion is.
3	C	
4	A	Students routinely reverse this word ('is comprised of', or using it to mean 'is part of'). In all three sentences here the whole is named first and its parts follow.
5	C	
6	B	'Decisive' here means settling the outcome, not the more familiar 'firm and quick to decide'.
7	B	
8	A	Most students meet this word only with illness. Here it describes a shortage that never lets up – and one the Party finds useful.
9	B	'Absolute' here is political – power with nothing checking it – not the looser everyday sense of 'complete' or 'certain'.
10	C	In current student usage 'aspect' almost always means 'a facet of'; Orwell uses the older sense – how the sky looked.

Teacher Context: Part 2 Chapters 6–10

O'Brien makes contact, drawing Winston toward what he believes is the Brotherhood, and Winston and Julia visit O'Brien's flat to be enrolled. Winston reads Goldstein's book aloud to Julia in the rented room, and Part Two ends with the pair exposed and seized. Chapters 6–10 are grouped so the section carries Part Two to its own ending.