*Brave New World*:Chapter notes, quotes, summaries – CHAPTER 16

To study: either whole chapter, or selected passages:

Summary & what we learn:

* **Important chapter** – as it allows personal insight (from Mond) into the inner workings of the system, and makes a strong case for the existence of the BNW.
* This chapter challenges readers to see things from both sides.
* They trialled an island (Cypress) of just Alphas – and the island could not sustain itself – no-one wanted to do the menial work and those with good jobs did everything they could to keep them – resulting in civil war, and the population begging for the Controllers to take over.
* They trialled shorter working hours, and the result was a decrease in happiness, with people spending the time taking more soma and becoming dissatisfied.
* Mond was like Helmholtz – although a brilliant scientist, who chose to train to become a controller and serve other people’s happiness, rather than pursue his own on an island.

Characters:

* Mond sometimes regrets his decision, and must be lonely, but still carries on his duty… ‘admirably’?

Style & Textual Features:

* **Point of View** – here we hear things from Mond, and therefore the whole system’s, POV – which changes the way we view the world.
* **COMPARISON**: do we hear things from Big Brother’s POV? Are they as convincing as Mond?  
  *hold this question for our study of 1984*

Quotes:   
Mond:

* “You’ve got to choose between happiness and what people used to call high art” 180-1
* “People are happy; they get what they want, and they never want what they can’t get.” 180
* “Happiness is never grand” 181
* “Science is dangerous; we have to keep it chained and muzzled”

16.1 – choose **two** quotes, write them in your book and in your own words, explain what the quote shows/reveals.

KEY IDEAS:

* There is no truth or beauty in this world, it is sacrificed for happiness and stability.
* The Islands of which Mond speaks, seem to perhaps be the true utopias of this world – a place where the ‘different’/more gifted/less controlled
* Conversely, the islands may not even exist – we have no proof – they could just be sent to their death. What do you think? Do they exist?
* **Huxley’s idea:** the fact that the trial of all Alphas on an island didn’t work, and people weren’t happy, is a key idea that underlies our own current social and political structure. If everyone was intelligent and educated, who would do all of the menial, every-day jobs? Would such a world end in more conflict and unhappiness?  
    
  Discussion: if this is true, does that mean we should keep our current system and keep higher education to the select few?  
    
  Or… ?

**COMPARISON:** The BNW society sends potential rebels to an island where they can live their life thinking and being different. 1984 kills all people who show the slightest hint of rebellion, or being ‘different’.

QUESTIONS:

* What do you think would happen if people were given shorter working hours? Would they turn to more drugs or leisure activities? Or would people use them more effectively? ( in our current world, not theirs)?
* Can *real* **art** be made when everyone is happy? Or does art need to express the turmoil, miseries and problems of the world?
* Does science and progress need to be… ‘monitored’, controlled? Or should we continue in our current path and accept every new technology and invention as ‘good’ for us?  
  1. How convincing is Mond when he speaks of the need to sacrifice truth and beauty for stability and happiness? Where you persuaded to agree with him in any way? Explain why/why not.
  2. What would you choose: truth and beauty, or stability and happiness? Why? *Students write an answer*