1984 /Nineteen Eighty-Four

Genre: type of fiction

1. Dystopian Fiction – describes a society, that is, in some important way, undesirable or frightening

Opposite of Utopian Fiction – counter to Thomas More’s “utopian concept” of a perfected society in Utopia

Usually set in the future (sub-genre of Science Fiction)

Society exists as a result of disaster or

Dehumanizing effect of a Totalitarian Government

World in decline

In particular, in 1984, themes that relate to the creation of this dystopian world:

Security

Propaganda

Privacy

Counter Terrorism

Spies

Censorship

Distorting Language

Rebellion against the Government

Totalitarian governments

War

Environment

Abuse of power

Isolation

Social class disparity

2. New Historicism – cultural, historical context of a “text” – a literary text can reveal a great deal about its context/can relate to our own (synthesis study: “modern echo”)

3. Aspects of meta-fiction – self-conscious “book within a book”

Please read the first half of Part One: Chapter One (up until the end of the diary entry on page 11) and then write a written response to the following question: How can this text be considered a dystopian novel? Consider its tone, mood and setting. Use embedded quotations (with parenthetical references).