

CYBERQUEST

DISCOVERING CYBERPUNK THROUGH THE CYBERSPACE

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S WORKSHEET

Please remember that these questions are just guidelines. You may use them as starting points or suggestions, but feel free to explore the resources in the direction you like. They should work as a thread not to get lost in the labyrinths of the Cyberspace...

1. What does the word cyberpunk mean? Think about the two parts of the compound.
2. Who used it for the first time?
3. What is the cyberspace? Can Internet be considered as a kind of cyberspace as in Gibson's novel Neuromancer?
4. What's the difference between a hacker and a cracker?
5. Who are the main writers connected with the cyberpunk movement beside W. Gibson?
6. Cyberpunk vs. traditional science fiction.
7. Pioneers and inspirations
8. When did the cyberpunk movement take place?
9. What is steampunk?

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THE PHILOSOPHER'S WORKSHEET

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1. Body vs. cyber-extensions, technological implantations and enhancements
2. "Meatspace" vs. Cyberspace
3. Cyberspace as a Second Life
4. The power and influence of corporations and mobs (Yakuza)
5. Control and paranoia
6. The uncanny power of love
7. Dystopia
8. Artificial Intelligence: which limits?
9. Relationship between man and technology

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THE PSYCHOLOGIST'S WORKSHEET

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1. Case is the typical cyberpunk anti-hero. Think about him and list some characteristic features.
2. Molly and Peter Riviera strongly depend on their technological implants. What do they consist of? What do they use it for?
3. What's the difference between Wintermute and Neuromancer?
4. Why do you think Dixie McCoy wants to be erased? Do you think that in the end he obtains what he wants?
5. Why, as McCoy says, an A.I. is not human and cannot be thought or understood like a human being?

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THE TECHNICIAN'S WORKSHEET

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1. Which recent movie franchise have been strongly influenced by cyberpunk or contain strong cyberpunk elements? Try to list the element in the plot and in the characters present in both works.
2. Is there any connection with music? Like punk music, new wave...?
3. Do you think that the "punk" part of the cyberpunk compound shares anything with the values and lifestyle of the punk movement?
4. Do you feel cyberpunk?
5. A.I.'s in Neuromancer must comply to the Turing Law Code and the Turing Police is the military force controlling them. But do you know where this name come from? Alan Turing... rings a bell?
6. Are there adaptation of the novel into other works?
7. Cyberspace and today's Internet.