An
ANTHEM STUDY
QUESTIONS
Write complete,
thoughtful responses
to the questions you
choose to answer.
Chapter I: Respond to
four (4) of these
questions.
1 a) In a well-
organized paragraph,
describe the society
in which Anthem is
set. Some areas to
consider are the
political structure,
degree of technology,
social relationships,
quality of life, and
education. b) Would
you want to live in
this society? Explain
why or why not.
6. When does this
novel take place — in
the past, the present,
or the future? How
do you know?
7 a) How would your
teachers react if you
had Equality’s
“curse”? b) Why do
Equality’s teachers
disapprove of his
quick mind?
8. At this point in the
novel, does Equality
accept the moral
teachings of his
society? If so, why
doesn’t he feel shame
or remorse when he
knows that he’s
committing a crime?
Find textual evidence
to support your
answer.
9. Would you want to
be friends with
someone like Equality
7-2521? Why or why
not?
Chapter II: Respond
to three (3) of these
questions.
1. Re-read the
account of Liberty 5-
3000 on page 38.
Which character
traits are revealed in
this brief description?
2. Find several
examples of the ways
in which this society
tries to obliterate
each individual’s
mind (and self!) by
quashing personal
choices, desires, and
values.
3. Contrast Equality 7-
2521 with the rest of
the men living in this
society (pg. 46).
4. Of the whole range
of feelings possible to
man (joy, excitement,
anger, embarrassment, etc.)
why is fear the
prevailing emotion in
this society?
5. Start a personal
glossary in which you
explain the following
terms: the Great
Truth, the
Unmentionable
Times, the Uncharted
Forest, the Evil Ones,
the Great Rebirth.
6 a) What word is
Equality struggling to
recapture on page
49? b) In your
opinion, why is
mentioning this word
the only crime
punishable by death
in this society? How
does this word
contradict the ideals
of this society? What
could its rediscovery
possibly lead to?
Chapter III: Answer
one (1) of these
questions.
1 a) What does
Equality discover in
this chapter? b) How
important is this
discovery? Describe 4
ways in which it
would help society
and make life easier
or more enjoyable.
2. Outline some of
the Council of
Scholars’ beliefs, and
Equality’s refutation
of those beliefs.
Chapter IV: Answer
this question
1. Discuss the
appropriateness of
Equality’s new name,
“Unconquered”.
Chapter V: Answer
one (1) of these
questions.
1. Equality
understands that his
invention will benefit
mankind greatly;
however, this was not
his main motivation
in conducting his experiments and it is not the primary source of the great joy he experiences. Explain and discuss.

2. In your opinion, why is Equality so interested in seeing his own image at this point in the novel? What emotion is he feeling?

Chapter VI: Answer this question.
1. The old locks and lack of guards in the Palace of Corrective Detention indicate that prisoners never tried to escape. Why not?

Chapter VII: Answer one (1) of these questions.
1. What is Equality experiencing for the first time in this chapter, and what does he feel as a result?

2. Explain why Equality laughs when he remembers that he is “the Damned”.

3. What does the Uncharted Forest symbolize in Anthem?

Chapter VIII: Answer one (1) of these questions.
1. Outline four of the Council’s reasons for rejecting Equality’s invention.

2. What are the real reasons behind the Council’s rejection and fear of the gift?

3. What does Equality mean, at the beginning of the chapter, when he says, “We are old now, but we were young this morning” (p. 68)?

Chapter IX: Answer one (1) of these questions.
1. On pages 82 and 83, Liberty contrasts Equality to his fellow men. Paraphrase this passage.

2. In this chapter, Equality questions the morality of his former society. Contrast what he was previously taught about solitude, good, evil, and joy to what he now believes.

3. What does Equality now realize is the proper goal and purpose of his life?

4. In what ways is “I” like a God?

5. Re-read the incident with the Saint of the pyre (pg. 50). What was he trying to communicate to Equality?

Chapter X: Answer this question.
1. Describe the house and its contents in your own words, and explain why Liberty and Equality find it so strange and unique.

Chapter XI: Answer two (3) of these questions.
1. What great discovery does Equality make in this chapter?

2. Explain the following quotes in your own words, and discuss how they can be applied to your life: a) “Whatever road I take, the guiding star is within me”. b) “For the word “We” must never be spoken, save by one’s choice and as a second thought.”

3. What does Equality mean, at the beginning of the chapter, when he says, “We are old now, but we were young this morning” (p. 68)?

Chapter XII: Answer two (2) of these questions.
1. Why do the main characters take the names Prometheus and Gaea? Why weren’t they allowed to choose their names in their old society?

2. What does Prometheus plan to do in the future?

3. Prometheus reaches the important realization that, “To be free, a man must be free of his brothers”. Cite several examples from Anthem that illustrate the truth of this

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Anthem – Important Terms and Definitions

As you read *Anthem*, complete the following chart,
continuing to add entries as you read each chapter (the first entry is partially completed as an example). You may copy this chart on notebook paper or download it from the classroom website and type it directly, if that is easier for you. This will be due with your study guide.

| Term and Definition | Examples from *Anthem* (Try to find several examples – at least 2 – per term) | a. Why is this character or act condemned in *Anthem*?  
b. Should this character or act be condemned? Explain why or why not. (*Personal response*) |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Obedience           |                                                                              | a. They are taught that the individual is nothing, mankind is everything, and that everyone must be treated with absolute equality. To choose a friend is to single out, and elevate, one man from the group. Also, choosing a friend requires individual though, personal choices, and value judgments, all of which are forbidden. They are expected to be mindless, and thus selfless.  
b. *Personal response* |

| Transgression: the breaking of a law or oath |                                                                              | a. They are taught that the individual is nothing, mankind is everything, and that everyone must be treated with absolute equality. To choose a friend is to single out, and elevate, one man from the group. Also, choosing a friend requires individual though, personal choices, and value judgments, all of which are forbidden. They are expected to be mindless, and thus selfless.  
b. *Personal response* |

| Sin: |                                                                              |  |
| Curse: |                                                                              |  |
| Crime: |                                                                              |  |
| Evil: |                                                                              |  |
| Damned: |                                                                              |  |