

**Look at the following list of characteristics of dystopian fiction and select AT LEAST FOUR characteristics that are found in The Hunger Games/Divergent and explain them, with factual information to support each item.**

### **Common traits of dystopian fiction**

The following is a list of common traits of dystopias, although it is not definitive. Most dystopian films or literature includes at least a few of the following:

- a hierarchical society where divisions between the upper, middle and lower class are definitive and unbending.
- a nation-state ruled by an upper class with few democratic ideals
- state propaganda programs and educational systems that coerce most citizens into worshipping the state and its government, in an attempt to convince them into thinking that life under the regime is good and just
- strict conformity among citizens and the general assumption that dissent and individuality are bad
- a fictional state figurehead that people worship fanatically through a vast personality cult, such as *1984*'s Big Brother or *We*'s The Benefactor
- a fear of the world outside the state
- a common view of traditional life, particularly organized religion, as primitive and nonsensical
- a penal system that lacks due process laws and often employs psychological or physical torture
- constant surveillance by state police agencies
- the banishment of the natural world from daily life
- a back story of a natural disaster, war, revolution, uprising, spike in overpopulation or some other climactic event which resulted in dramatic changes to society
- a standard of living among the lower and middle class that is generally poorer than in contemporary society
- a protagonist who questions the society, often feeling intrinsically that something is terribly wrong
- because dystopian literature takes place in the future, it often features technology more advanced than that of contemporary society