**Collectivism**

The Belief: that the individual should be subjugated to the group and sacrificed for the common good.

How would you feel, if:

* YOU were told when to wake, when to eat, when to work, when to sleep? You are enslaved to all mankind; you have no freedom to choose your work or anything else.
* YOU can’t even see yourself as an individual, only as members of a group. And by embracing this as an ideal, you’ve become an accessory to your own enslavement.

**Individualism**

The Belief: each individual has the right to live for his own sake and to pursue his own happiness, … in which the individual’s own life is held as sacred

--- Agree or Disagree ---

Why?

It is important, even vital, not to sacrifice for others, but to live for yourself and to view the pursuit of your own happiness as your highest moral purpose.

**Egoism/Selfishness**

The *Preliminary* Idea: It is assumed to mean the pursuit of one’s own ends *at the expense of others*.

HOWEVER,

Selfishness simply means, “concern with one’s own interests.”

But this “does not tell us whether concern with one’s own interests is good or evil;

In Fact:

Selfishness is about how each individual lives for his own sake, neither sacrificing himself for others, nor sacrificing others to himself.

TRUE or FALSE?

Explain.

**Dark Ages**

Imagine: Technology and scientific knowledge have been lost.

The tallest building is only three stories, sundials keep time, and the newest modern invention is the candle.

--- How would you feel? ---

Why?

The Belief: scientific and technological progress requires individuals who are willing to exercise independent, rational thought and are free to innovate based on that thought.

--- Agree or Disagree ---

Why?

**Power of Language**

The Belief:

Concepts held in the form of words, are not just means of communication — they are the tools we use to make sense of the world and how we think.

Also:

A man who doesn’t have the concept “I” — who can only ever *speak* in terms of “we,” “they” and “ours” — can hardly *think* of himself as an independent, individual human being, let alone contemplate the value and meaning of being an individual.

--- Agree or Disagree ---

Why?

**Free Will**

Free will vs. Determinism

The Belief: People can make choices, can make up their own minds, can make decisions, can direct their own lives by the ideas and values they adopt.

The Belief: People are by nature in the grip of forces beyond their control, that their beliefs and values are the result of some force such as God, other people, the stars, economic conditions, instincts or one’s racial heritage.

--- Which do you agree with more? ---

Why?