

Text-Dependent Questions Directions:
WHAT MAKES GOOD PEOPLE DO BAD THINGS?

For the following questions, choose the best answer or respond in complete sentences.

1. What connection does the author draw between Jekyll and Hyde and human behavior?

- A. People are more like Jekyll than Hyde (i.e. more good than evil).
- B. People are more like Hyde than Jekyll (i.e. more evil than good).
- C. The author draws a comparison between the chemical transformation of Jekyll into Hyde and the real-life shift from ordinary person to evil-doer.
- D. The author uses Jekyll and Hyde as a metaphor for when people do bad things, in that they psychologically become a different person.

2. Which statement best captures Zimbardo’s point of view regarding the Abu Ghraib prison abuses?

- A. Zimbardo condemns the perpetrators of these crimes, arguing against them.
- B. Zimbardo excuses their behavior based on his own Stanford Prison Experiment.
- C. Zimbardo does not justify their actions, only explains how these abuses likely developed under certain conditions.
- D. Zimbardo argues that the guards of Abu Ghraib had no motive and though legally responsible they are psychologically blameless.

3. What is the author’s likely purpose for including John Watson’s 1974 and Dr. Bandura’s 1975 experiments? Consider how the ideas of these experiments interact.

4. PART A: Which of the following best describes a central idea of the passage?

- A. Harmful actions or behaviors can be excused by certain social situations, justifying the idea that people are inherently good.
- B. Social conditions, rather than innate morality (good and evil), can be the dominant influential force in our actions.
- C. People will always do bad things if they know they will get away with it.
- D. Social experiments are the only way to test humanity’s capacity for evil.

5. PART B: Which of the following best supports the answer to Part A?

- A. “...I argue that we all have the capacity for love and evil...” (Paragraph 3)
- B. “...the experiment provides several lessons about how situations can foster evil...” (Paragraph 5)
- C. “Nobody knows who you are, so therefore you are not individually liable.” (Paragraph 10)
- D. “...situational forces dominate most of us at various times in our lives... even though we’d all like to believe we’re each that singular hero” (Paragraph 19)