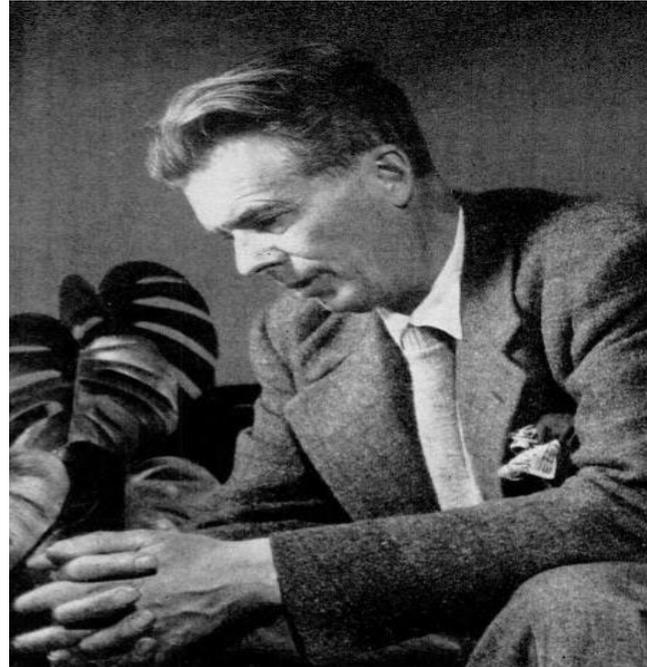


**VAISHALI MAHILA MAHAVIDYALAYA  
HAJIPUR, VAISHALI**

**DEPARTMENT OF  
ENGLISH TAKES  
YOU TO**

# ALDOUS HUXLEY



- **Aldous Leonard Huxley** (26 July 1894 – 22 November 1963) was an English writer and philosopher. He wrote nearly fifty books—both novels and non-fiction works—as well as wide-ranging essays, narratives, and poems.
- Early in his career, he published short stories and poetry and edited the literary magazine [Oxford Poetry](#), before going on to publish travel writing, [satire](#), and [screenplays](#).
- He was nominated for the [Nobel Prize in Literature](#) seven times<sup>[9]</sup> and was elected Companion of Literature by the [Royal Society of Literature](#) in 1962

# Work life

- His first published novels were social satires, [Crome Yellow](#) (1921), [Antic Hay](#) (1923), [Those Barren Leaves](#) (1925), and [Point Counter Point](#) (1928). *Brave New World* was his fifth novel and first dystopian work. In the 1920s he was also a contributor to [Vanity Fair](#) and [British Vogue](#) magazines.
- Huxley's first published work was a collection of his poetry, *The Burning Wheel* (1916), written when he was still in his early twenties.
- French novelist Marcel Proust praised Huxley's early efforts, and Huxley seemed destined for life as a poet. But with the publication of his first two novels, *Crome Yellow* (1921) and *Antic Hay* (1923), Huxley emerged as a particularly witty chronicler of modern life among the educated and pretentious.
- With the novel *Point counter point*, Huxley further solidified his reputation as a satirist. He followed up with another satire, which would prove to be his most popular work — *Brave New World* (1932)

- After the publication of *Brave New World*, Huxley left England, living with his wife, Maria, first in New Mexico — the site of the Savage Reservation in *Brave New World* — and later in California, where surgery restored much of his vision
- In Los Angeles, Huxley wrote screenplays for film versions of fictional classics such as *Jane Eyre*, *Pride and Prejudice*, and *Alice in Wonderland*. He also continued writing fiction, notably *Ape and Essence* (1948), a futuristic fiction set in Los Angeles after a nuclear war.
- In all of Huxley's mature writings, one finds an awareness that seems to bridge the gap between "The Two Cultures"- the sciences and the humanities.

# WORK AND LEISURE

## SUMMARY

- At present, leisure is a privilege for very few people. But in the coming days, with efficient social organization and sophisticated machinery, more and more people will enjoy the fruits of leisure. Here, Huxley raises a question that what the people will do with this leisure? Here, he cites three authorities namely, Poincare, G. B. Shaw and H. G. Wells who have tried to find out the possible answers for this question. Surprisingly, everyone comes to the conclusion that the human beings of the future world would fill their long leisures 'by contemplating the laws of nature'. Different prophets are also hopeful about the proper utilization of leisurely hours.

- But considering the contemporary scenario, Huxley feels sorry for the misuse of leisure. Here he talks about the utilization of leisure of the rich and the poor. Most of the rich people prefer is Monte Carlo and Nice, the places notoriously famous for gambling and prostitutes. Huxley calls these places ironically as “ an earthly paradise”. of course, there are exceptions these seekers of love and play. Some of the people are engaged with works of charity, politics, local administration and occasionally with scholarly or scientific studies. But majority of the population is inclined to Monte Carlo. This concept of leisure of the rich people is not at all cheering or elevating.
- In case of poor people also, though they get comparatively brief leisure hours, the picture is not so good. For them, the idea of leisure is restricted to looking at cinema, films, reading newspapers, cheap literature, listening to radio, gramophone records, and going from place to place. Huxley is upset because. of the thought that what will happen when the leisure is prolonged. He predicts that there would be an enormous increase in amorous life style and time killing

- But it would be wrong to assume that Huxley is against the notion of leisure. He refers to Leo Tolstoy, the great Russian writer, who considered leisure as something 'wicked' and 'absurd'. He regarded leisure lovers as conspirators against the welfare of the race. Whereas, Huxley doesn't consider leisure as a curse. He opines that in a society where there are active minds, engaged in mental work, leisure would be "an unmixed blessing'. Since leisure is directly related to mental work, some people may pinpoint the loopholes of education system. Huxley agrees with them. His observation is that plenty of people who have received the best education, employ their leisure as though they had never been educated at all. Therefore Huxley believes that if education is made really efficient, only then contemplating the laws of nature would become the leisure of people.

THANK YOU