

Summarise the main features of Huxley's life that had an influence upon 'Brave New World' (part 1)

'Brave New World' Context

- Born (in **1894**) into a family renowned for its contributions to science and literature
- **1908**: started Eton and mother died of cancer (link: John experiences dreadful feelings of guilt about his mother's death that no-one can understand)
- **1914**: tried to enlist but rejected because of eyesight; his brother Trevenen committed suicide by hanging (echoed in 'Brave New World' with John's death)

Summarise the main features of Huxley's life that had an influence upon 'Brave New World' (part 2)

'Brave New World' Context

- Pre-'Brave New World' (1932) Huxley was predominantly a satirist, mocking the futility of modern civilisation, but after it he sought to be something of a prophet, offering constructive solutions to humanity's problems
- Initially supported the Great War, but afterwards became a pacifist
- **1937**: moved to California
- Died in **1963**; asked his wife to inject him with LSD on request

Why did Huxley become a pacifist, and what was the significance of this?

'Brave New World' Context

- He became disillusioned, first by the nature of WWI and then by the terms of the peace settlement
- His advocacy of non-violence became unacceptable to many of his readers once Germany began to invade other nations and the prospect of WWII grew nearer; it also made his move to California controversial - he seemed to be running away from enemies of freedom

Explain the significance of Huxley's move to California, and describe his life in America

'Brave New World' Context

- It was controversial; he moved to the very place whose mass culture and vulgarity he had so often mocked in his essays and novels
- He lived in Hollywood and tried to make money writing film scripts
- He pursued interest in mysticism and Hindu teaching, seeking to reconcile insights of Eastern spiritual thought with Western science, eventually advocating use of hallucinogenic drugs as a help in attaining enlightenment