# Reading Guide – Gramsci

**Article 1 – “The Legacy of Antonio Gramsci” - Joseph A. Buttigieg**

1. Gramsci spent 10 and 1/2 years in prison and was a member of the communist party in what country? (pp. 1-3)
2. Did Gramsci actually write any books while he was in prison? (p. 3)
3. While in prison, Gramsci was working on a history of what? (top of p. 4)
4. Does Gramsci consider intellectuals to be part of political or civil society? (p. 5)
5. What important concept did Gramsci develop? (top of p. 8)
6. Although Gramsci urged that it was necessary to study the past in a “disinterested” manner, are Gramsci’s own writing actually “disinterested?” (bottom of p. 14 to top of pg. 15)

**Article 2 – “On Intellectuals” by Antonio Gramsci**

This article is rather difficult to read, but the introduction by Hoare and Smith (pp. 1-2) is very informative and covers most of the key elements in the actual Gramsci article.

1. Who does Gramsci believe are potential intellectuals? (p. 1)
2. What two types of intellectuals does Gramsci categorize? How are they different? (p. 1)
3. What struggle do intellectuals mediate according to Gramsci? (p. 1)
4. Does Gramsci (as well as Lenin) think that social change will be promoted by traditional intellectuals? (p. 1-2)
5. What is Gramsci’s first question about intellectuals? (p. 2)
6. What kind of services did intellectuals known as “ecclesiastical” (church leaders) hold a monopoly on during the feudal period? Who were they strongly tied to? (p. 3)
7. Although these traditional intellectuals imagined themselves to be independent of the dominant (ruling) class, does Gramsci agree that they are truly autonomous? (pp. 3-4)
8. According to Gramsci, what distinguishes the intellectual from the non-intellectual (Hint: this has nothing to do with differences in intelligence according to Gramsci. Bottom of p. 4).
9. What type of instrument creates intellectuals according to Gramsci? (Bottom of p. 5 to top of p. 6).
10. Is education equally available to all classes? (p. 6)
11. What are the two “superstructural” levels of society according to Gramsci? (p. 6)
12. What is the function of a political party according to Gramsci? (top of p. 8)
13. Who do the traditional intellectuals unite with according to Gramsci? (top of p. 11)

Note: The last portion of this article is devoted to showing how various “traditional intellectuals” developed in different nations around the world. Please note that Gramsci views this as a fairly widespread human social phenomenon.
Article 3 - “On Education” by Antonio Gramsci

This article is also rather difficult to read, but the introduction by Hoare and Smith (pp. 1-2) is very informative and covers most of the key points of the actual article.

1. Because Gramsci was writing from prison, he would often disguise his plans for a future, ideal educational system as occurring when? (p. 1)
2. Gramsci would like to see intellectuals emerge from which class? (top of p. 2)
3. For Gramsci, the issue with education was not a problem of the curricula but rather a problem of what? (p. 2)
4. What type of new school became a threat to the classical school model? (top of p. 3)
5. According to Gramsci, in recent times the form and function of education has moved from being private to what? (p. 5)
6. Students find a prolongation of and preparation the school life where? (bottom of p. 5)
7. Did Gramsci believe that students were more prepared for educational life by being raised in the city or the countryside? (p. 6)
8. Gramsci argues that schooling should consist of two phases. The first phase is to teach discipline or conformity. But the second phase should enable the student to do what? (p. 7)
9. What kind of new relations does the “common school” create? (p. 7)
10. What were students taught in the “old primary school”? (p. 7)
11. According to Gramsci, what was the real point of studying ancient Latin & Greek grammar in the “old school?” (bottom of p. 9 to top of p. 10)
12. Why does Gramsci claim the new (or formative) school is NOT democratic? (bottom of p. 11 to top of p. 12)
13. Does Gramsci believe that the new educational system prepares every citizen to “govern?” Does it create a transcendence of class divisions? (p. 12)
14. What sort of educational advantages does a child from an “intellectual family” possess according to Gramsci? (p. 13)