Animal Farm Study Guide Question Directions: Answer each of the following questions in a complete sentence in your practice journal.

Chapter I
1. How is the farmer, Mr. Jones, described as the novel opens? How is this description meant to affect the reader?
2. Describe Old Major and his dream. How is Old Major’s dream important?
3. Other than his dream, what prompts Old Major to gather the animals and encourage their revolt against Man?
4. How are Clover and Boxer described? What effect does the personification of the animals, or their being given human characteristics, have on your perception of the text?
5. What makes Benjamin distinct from all the other animals? Contrasting Benjamin’s description with the descriptions of the other animals, what might the reader intuit about Benjamin and his role in the book?
6. What does Old Major entreat the animals to do? Why does he urge them to take this action? What is the intended effect?
7. What philosophical question do the farm animals wrestle with once they have established that Man is the enemy? What is the outcome?
8. What are the elements of the doctrine laid out by Old Major?
9. What breaks up the meeting?

Chapter II
10. What happens to open the chapter?
11. What is the first hint that Old Major’s doctrine was too idealistic as the animals plan for the Rebellion? What literary device does Orwell use to give that hint?
12. Describe in detail Napoleon, Snowball, and Squealer. What do they do with Old Major’s teachings?
13. Why do the animals hate Moses? Explain the significance of Sugarcandy Mountain, and describe what Moses might represent as an allegorical figure.
14. How would you describe Orwell’s point of view and narrative style in telling the story? How do the author’s point of view, style, and tone affect the reader’s attitude toward the different characters and contribute to the reader’s perception of the novel?
15. What precipitates the Rebellion, and how is it carried out? How would you characterize Orwell’s tone in describing how the Rebellion occurs and the preceding and subsequent actions?
16. How is the farmhouse perceived by the animals when they tour the interior, and what might the farmhouse symbolize? What decision do the animals make following the tour?
17. What does Mollie do when she is inside the house? How do her actions support our understanding of her character?
18. What is the original name of the farm, and what new name do the animals give it? What does changing the name of the farm signify?
19. What are the Seven Commandments that make up the “unalterable law by which all the animals on Animal Farm must live for ever after”?
20. After the pigs milk the cows, Chapter II concludes with the animals marching down to the hayfield to begin bringing in the crops. When they return, “it was noticed that the milk had disappeared.” What do we infer happened to the milk? What effect do the language used and the placement of this mystery at the end of the chapter have on the reader?
21. To this point in the book, explain the attributes that make Animal Farm a fable, or a story or narrative intended to teach a lesson, especially one in which animal characters are given human attributes.

Chapter III
22. What roles do the different animals have in harvesting the hay? In what ways is the harvest similar to or different from harvests controlled by the farmer?
23. How is Boxer idealized as a worker?
24. What utopian features does Animal Farm seem to possess? What does the author’s ironic tone indicate about the animals’ perfect society?
25. Describe the weekly rituals the animals engage in. How do the rituals serve the animal community? How do they serve the pigs?
26. Describe the cat’s involvement in the Wild Comrades’ Re-education Committee, one of the committees set up by Snowball. Which education effort orchestrated by Snowball is successful?
27. How and why are the Seven Commandments simplified? How is the simplification significant?
28. What does Napoleon do with the puppies? What human historical precedents might his actions represent?
29. How and why does Squealer tell the other animals that the pigs are being fed both the missing milk and the windfall apples? How might Squealer symbolize propaganda—persuasive speech or writing, often containing misinformation, issued by a government to influence the attitude of the community?

Chapter IV
30. Why don’t the surrounding farmers help Jones when he is first overthrown?
31. Describe Mr. Pilkington and Mr. Frederick. What misinformation do they issue about Animal Farm, and why? How is their issuing misinformation significant in the text?
32. What is the most effective tool in spreading word of Animal Farm? What is its effect?
33. Describe the long-awaited act that takes place in early October. What is the result?
34. How do Boxer’s and Snowball’s different reactions to the boy’s death underscore their different characters? What becomes of the stable-lad?

35. In what patriotic and militaristic ways do the animals react to the battle? How does the mood change at Animal Farm? Considering the change in mood, how might life change for the animals?

Chapter V
36. What transpires so that “none of the animals ever mentioned Mollie again”? Who might Mollie symbolize?
37. What stands in the way of farm policy being made? What broader issue does the problem signal?
38. Describe the dispute over the windmill and the consequences of the disagreement on Snowball and Napoleon and on the greater animal community. What critical shift occurs at Animal Farm?
39. Explain the significance of Squealer’s response to the claim that Snowball was not a criminal but was instead a hero who “fought bravely at the Battle of the Cowshed”: “Bravery is not enough,” said Squealer. “Loyalty and obedience are more important. And as to the Battle of the Cowshed, I believe the time will come when we shall find that Snowball’s part in it was much exaggerated.”

40. What decision does Napoleon make that shows his and Snowball’s differences were about control, not what was best for Animal Farm? What explanation are the animals given for the decision?

Chapter VI
41. Describe the animals’ work and general mood at the farm as the chapter opens.
42. In *The Odyssey*, Homer tells the story of Sisyphus, the former king of Corinth, whom Odysseus sees in the Land of the Dead suffering an eternal punishment; Sisyphus struggles relentlessly to roll an enormous boulder up a hill only to have it roll down again to the bottom. How does Orwell make an allusion to this myth? What is he suggesting by alluding to it?
43. What limitations does Animal Farm’s self-sustaining model run up against? What bit of irony does the description of the animals’ needs include?
44. What happens to cause the animals to feel “a vague uneasiness”? How is their doubt handled to keep them under control?
45. Who is the “Leader” who moves into the farmhouse? What does this move signify?
46. What terrible event is ascribed to Snowball? Why?

Chapter VII
47. What do the human beings say “out of spite” toward the animals? What is revealed in analyzing the truth about the windmill’s failure?
48. Who continues to work hardest on the windmill with what motivation?
49. What befalls the animals, and why must they hide it from the rest of the world?
50. What happens to make the chickens rebel? Describe their rebellion and its consequence.
51. What fresh acts are attributed to Snowball? Why? What portion of these lies does Boxer not believe?
52. What dictatorial actions does Napoleon carry out in response to Boxer’s doubt, and to what effect?
53. How does Boxer’s response to the killings reward Napoleon’s violence? How does Clover’s response contrast with Boxer’s?
54. How is Napoleon’s banning *Beasts of England* symbolic of the animals’ failed vision?

Chapter VIII
55. What happened to the Commandment, “No animal shall kill any other animal”? What was the result?
56. What numerous changes reflect Napoleon’s transition into a true dictator?
57. What does it say about Napoleon when he decides to sell the timber to Frederick after previously planning to sell it to Pilkington?
58. What happens in the timber deal that enrages Napoleon? What is the reaction from each side?
59. What does Squealer claim as their victory? How does Boxer’s reaction demonstrate the changing tide of sentiment?
60. What “poisons” the pigs, including Napoleon? What are the results?

Chapter IX
61. What was Boxer’s one ambition?
62. How does Squealer describe the reduction of rations during the harsh winter?
63. Why does Squealer’s constant lying about the animals’ quality of life relative to their lives when Jones was in charge work?
64. In what new ways are the pigs treated like upper-class citizens?
65. What might Sugarcandy Mountain represent to the animals? Why would the pigs dislike Sugarcandy Mountain?
66. What happens to Boxer? Describe the sequence of events.
67. The pigs obtain money to buy more whisky. How might we infer they get it? How does the pigs’ behavior relate to Old Major’s words to Boxer in Chapter I?

Chapter X
68. How has the prosperity of Animal Farm affected the various animals’ lives?
69. If their lives are of poor condition, why do the animals not lose hope?
70. Why does Squealer take the sheep away? What is the significance of his actions?
71. What single Commandment replaces all the others? Why?
72. What new human traits do the pigs employ?
73. For what purpose do the humans come to the farm? What do the other animals overhear at their meeting with the pigs?
74. What is Napoleon’s response to Pilkington’s speech, and what are the speech’s implications for Animal Farm?
75. To what state does the farm return at the conclusion of the novel? What surprising observation is made by the lower animals?