

## INTRODUCTION TO QUESTIONS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Social justice is fairness in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.

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- What does power have to do with fairness and justice?
- What is oppression and what are the root causes? {*The negative condition of those who experience the exercise of power in a cruel and unjust fashion*}
- How are prejudice and bias created? How do we overcome them?
- What are the responsibilities of the individual in regard to issues of social justice?
- Can literature serve as a vehicle for social change?
- When should an individual take a stand against what he/she believes to be an injustice? What are the most effective ways to do this?
- What are the factors that create an imbalance of power within a culture?
- Is it ever necessary to question the status quo?
- What are the benefits and consequences of questioning / challenging social order?
- Does labeling and stereotyping influence how we look at and understand the world?
- What does it mean to be invisible? (context: minorities)
- In what ways can a minority keep their issues on the larger culture's "radar screen?"
- Does an institution/culture ever have a right to censor its artists?
- What allows some individuals to take a stand against prejudice/oppression while others choose to participate in it?
- What are the causes and consequences of prejudice and how does an individual's response to it reveal his/her morals, ethics, and values?
- Is modern discrimination different from traditional forms of discrimination?