**Name:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Period:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

*Adapted from Dr. Ari Santas’ Study Questions for Inception (Christopher Nolan, 2010) Things to keep in mind as you watch:*

• *Sleep Stages*

• *Misinformation and imagination effects*

• *Discerning true and false memories*

• *Repressed memories*

• *Dream theories: biological, cognitive, and psychoanalytic*

• *Cognitive dissonance*

• *Sensation and perception*

**Questions:**

1. Extraction is easier than inception, and inception seems significantly more devious and potentially dangerous—why?  How can such a simple idea redefine one?  Explain.

2. If the characters die in the dream, they wake up, but pain in the dream is very real.  What does this apparent fact have to tell us about the nature of dreaming and its relation to experience?

3. At deeper levels of dreaming (dreams within dreams, aided by sedatives), dying does not wake, but plunge one into limbo.  What might this mean, metaphorically?  Do you think this is a possibility?

4. In the film it is said that dreaming involves simultaneous perceiving and creating; but, is this just the nature of perception, dreaming or awake.  How does this concept relate to perception and consciousness?

5. Comment on the theory of dream time offered in this film (time differences among levels).  Compare to the different stages of sleep and the time you feel you have spent dreaming versus time asleep.

6. For the dreamers, the dreams become their reality.  This is a theme in the film.  Comment on the question, “Who are we to say otherwise?”

7. In order to implant one idea, the team plants a different one which will then naturally lead to the desired thought of the subject at a deeper level.  What does this layering of implanted ideas mean? What fact of human experience might this represent?

8. Part of the premise of the story is that one can train oneself to navigate in and out of dream states.  Is there any realism to this idea?  Comment on this premise using the theory of lucid dreaming.

9. The characters in the story continuously make distinctions between what is real and what is a projection *while in their dream state*.  Does this make any sense?  Explain using dream theory.

10. The smallest idea can grow to the point that it will *define* you or *destroy* you.  Explain what this statement means.

11.  Based on your answers from the film, write a paragraph (or two) explaining how **social psychology, cognition and memory, consciousness, and sensation/perception** were all portrayed in the film.