

Human Factors Engineering II
Discussion Questions for
Thinking, Fast and Slow

Kahneman, D. (2011). *Thinking, Fast and Slow*. New York: Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

Part V. Two Selves

Chapter 35. Two Selves

1. What is *experienced utility*?
2. What are the *two selves* and what distinguishes one from the other?
3. Apply the *peak-end rule* and *duration neglect* to a specific situation, real or hypothetical.
4. In a new medical procedure, should a physician attempt to reduce the pain actually experienced or reduce the patient's memory of the pain? Why?
5. What is System 1's role in memory of experience?
6. Comment on the Bentham quotation on p. 377: "Nature has placed mankind under the governance of two sovereign masters, *pain* and *pleasure*. It is for them alone to point out what we ought to, as well as to determine what we shall do." Do you agree?

Chapter 36. Life As a Story

1. How do the two selves work over a lifetime of experience?
2. What does this say about how you should live your life and reflect on it?

Chapter 37. Experienced Well-Being

1. What is the Day Reconstruction Method (DRM)? Is it valid?
2. What did you find interesting about the findings of the DRM study? Why?
3. How is emotion related to attention?
4. What else was of particular note to you in this chapter?
5. What do you make of the following sentence on p. 397? "Life satisfaction is not a flawed measure of their experienced well-being, as I thought some years ago. It is something else entirely."

Chapter 38. Thinking About Life

1. What is *affective forecasting*?
2. What do goals have to do with well-being?
3. Explain the *focusing illusion* using an example of your own, real or hypothetical.
4. Explain *miswanting* using an example of your own, real or hypothetical.
5. What is your idea of the Good Life, that is, a life of meaning, well-being, or happiness?