The Lives of Others - Memorable Quotations

It is important when writing about film texts like those that are written to use quotations as part of your evidence. Here is a quick activity to remind you of some of the more memorable quotations in The Lives of Others.

References:
<http://www.poemofquotes.com/quotes/movies/the-lives-of-others.php>> accessed on 12/05/09
<http://www.reellifewisdom.com/taxonomy/term/the_lives_of_others> accessed on 12/05/09.

For each quotation, answer the following series of questions:

a) Now down the context for this quotation in the narrative. What does it say about the character and plot events at that stage in the film?

b) How is this quotation used to reinforce key ideas in the film?

c) What techniques does the director employ to highlight the importance of this speech in the film?

1. “An innocent prisoner will become more angry by the hour due to the injustice suffered. He will shout and rage. A guilty prisoner becomes more calm and quiet. Or he cries. He knows he's there for a reason. The best way to establish guilt or innocence is non-stop interrogation.” (Capt. Gerd Wiesler)

   a.)
   
   b.)
   
   c.)

2. “Writers are engineers of the soul.” (Minister Bruno Hempf)

   a.)
   
   b.)
   
   c.)

3. “Actors are never 'who they are'”. (Christa Maria)

   a.)
   
   b.)
   
   c.)

4. “I have to show you something: "Prison Conditions for Subversive Artists: Based on Character Profile". Pretty scientific, eh? And look at this: "Dissertation Supervisor, A. Grubitz". That's great, isn't it? I only gave him a B. They shouldn't think getting a doctorate with me is easy. But his is first-class. Did you know that there are just five types of artists? Your guy, Dreyman, is a Type 4, a "hysterical anthropocentrist." Can't bear being alone, always talking, needing friends. That type should never be brought to trial. They thrive on that. Temporary detention is the best way to deal with them. Complete isolation and no set
release date. No human contact the whole time, not even with the guards. Good treatment, no harassment, no abuse, no scandals, nothing they could write about later. After 10 months, we release. Suddenly, that guy won’t cause us any more trouble.

Know what the best part is? Most type 4s we’ve processed in this way never write anything again. Or paint anything, or whatever artists do. And that without any use of force. Just like that. Kind of like a present.” (Col. Anton Grubitz)

a.)

b.)

c.)

5. “Hope always dies last.” (Minister Bruno Hempf)

a.)

b.)

c.)

6. “Can anyone who has heard this music, I mean truly heard it, really be a bad person?” (Georg Dreyman)

a.)

b.)

c.)

7. “I used to be afraid of two things – being alone and not being able to write. Since Albert’s death, I don’t care about writing or about other people.” (Georg Dreyman)

a.)

b.)

c.)

Captain Gerd Wiesler: “No. It’s for me.”

a.)

b.)

c.)