1. Theory and practice

2. Social change

3. Materiality of society: a predominant meaning of "Materialistic": people who like to shop a lot, or are more interested in things and the status they offer than in the humans who make the things. But when Marx is talking about the materiality of society it is in the context of his critique of idealism, and the notion that ideas move history. Materiality of society pertains to the sensuous aspect of our lives rather than our cognition of it. Our material need for food, shelter, etc and the way society is organized towards the distribution of these social goods determine *how we think* according to Marx.

4. Progressive theory of history

*Rosa Parks: How I Fought for Civil Rights*
“Progressive Theory of History”. Marx’s theory of history is that human beings make history. Class struggle is what creates history. Marx hoped for the workers to have a leap of consciousness that would allow their ideas to become material forces. Rosa Parks created history when she refused to give up her seat. Because of her class struggle she created history. Because of Ms. Parks the civil rights movement was created and the Supreme Court ruling in 1956 stated that segregation on transportation is unconstitutional.

5. Mode of production
6. Marxian Metaphor
7. Superstructure
8. Base

Base was described in class as a part of the Marxian metaphor. It was defined as the sphere of work, or the organization of the economic means of production. How work is organized in the base determines the composition of the superstructure.

I found a great quote on pg. 154 of the German Ideology that helps explain the interaction of base and superstructure: [the parts dealing with base are in brackets]

"The social structure and the State are continually evolving out of the [life processes of definite individuals, but of individuals, not as they may appear in their own or other people’s imagination, but as they really are, i.e. as they operate, produce materially, and hence as they work under definite material limits, presuppositions and conditions independent of their will]. The production of ideas, of conceptions, of consciousness is at first directly interwoven with the [material activity and the material intercourse of men, the language of real life]. Conceiving, thinking, then mental intercourse of men, appear at this stage as the direct efflux of their [material behavior]. The same applies to the mental production as expressed in the language of politics, laws, mortality, religion, metaphysics, etc., of a people."

Example: A concrete example I thought of was the clear division of labor in the United States between white collar and blue collar workers. The base determines superstructure, so for example this division of labor is reflected in the education system where children of wealthy white collar workers go to private schools, whereas children of blue collar workers go to public schools. Or because the laborers live in areas that differ in living conditions, their children attend schools in districts that have variable standards. For example, I saw a poster the other day that said something to the matter of... "children in urban schools are three grades behind their suburban counterparts". An example of the base.

"After World War II, France undertook a great extension and modernization of its public transportation and power systems to provide a basis for later development of private industry and agriculture."

since the base is the organization of the modes of production, I thought France’s "extension and
modernization of its public transportation and power systems” would serve as a mode of future production.

9. Organization of Production
10. Marxist Ethics
11. Authenticity

12. Alienation: alienation: egg donors (need I say more?)

13. Contradictions in capitalism/crises in capitalism: 401k's would be an excellent counter-example of how crises in capital have not always produced the marxist predictions for worker leaps in consciousness that produced phenomena like labor unions getting higher wages for workers, 8-hour days, benefits like sick pay, vacation pay. I think what would really be fantastic to know would be some sort of statistic about the percentages and amounts for workers investing thru 401k's (my husband who is a teamster has actually lost 1000's this year of our “savings” in a 401k!) and how this is wooing them into being pro-capitalist! But a stricter definition of a Marx' meaning of a “crisis in capital” would be that thru speed ups, de-skilling, layoffs, capital flight to the 3rd world, below-subsentence wages workers are suffering for the sake of profits and are getting a consciousness of their real interests as being opposed to their bosses and organizing for something better....like "Janitors for Justice" or the international labor movement.

14. Leap in consciousness: A "leap in consciousness" was what Marx thought would happen to the proletarian class because of crises in capital. These crises are usually solved by the capitalist through imposing upon the workers speed ups, layoffs, cuts in pay or benefits etc. This causes the worker to suffer and have a leap in consciousness that will move the worker to change the conditions of work...ie Labor organizing, riots, revolution, strikes etc. The worker will understand her own interests and form a counter-ideology that will express the desire of the proletariat for authenticity and full flourishing of life. Marvin Gaye's song that I mentioned "Makes me wanna holler, the way they do my life! This ain't livin, this ain't livin!" this is an example of a leap in consciousness similar to what Marx predicts.

15. Social capital