

Introduction to Existentialism

Philosophy · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which 20th-century French philosopher is most famously associated with the development of existentialism?

- A) Jean-Paul Sartre**
- B) René Descartes
- C) John Locke
- D) Adam Smith

2. What is the central concept in existentialism that suggests individuals create their own purpose?

- A) Determinism
- B) Existence precedes essence**
- C) Divine intervention
- D) Collective consciousness

3. Which 19th-century German philosopher is often considered a forerunner of existentialism for his work on individual will?

- A) Karl Marx
- B) Friedrich Nietzsche**
- C) Immanuel Kant
- D) Georg Hegel

4. Existentialism gained significant popularity as a philosophical movement during which time period?

- A) The Renaissance
- B) The Middle Ages
- C) The mid-20th century**
- D) The Victorian era

5. Which author wrote the existentialist novel 'The Stranger', known for its detached protagonist?

- A) Albert Camus**
- B) Victor Hugo
- C) Marcel Proust
- D) Gustave Flaubert

6. In existentialist thought, what does the term 'facticity' generally refer to?

- A) The freedom to choose everything
- B) The physical and social circumstances of one's life**
- C) The denial of objective reality
- D) The belief in a predetermined destiny

7. Which Danish philosopher is frequently cited as the 'father of existentialism' for his writings on the individual's subjective experience?

- A) Søren Kierkegaard**
- B) Baruch Spinoza
- C) Arthur Schopenhauer
- D) Bertrand Russell

8. Existentialism focuses heavily on the responsibility of the individual to make their own:

- A) Political alliances
- B) Scientific discoveries
- C) Personal choices**
- D) Economic predictions