

Foundations of Existentialism

Philosophy · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Which French philosopher is most famously associated with the development of existentialism?

- A) Jean-Paul Sartre**
- B) Immanuel Kant
- C) René Descartes
- D) John Locke

2. What is the central theme often associated with existentialist philosophy?

- A) The study of atoms
- B) Existence precedes essence**
- C) The necessity of monarchy
- D) The perfection of mathematics

3. Which 19th-century Danish thinker is considered a precursor to existentialism?

- A) Søren Kierkegaard**
- B) Karl Marx
- C) Adam Smith
- D) Charles Darwin

4. Which of these concepts is a major theme in existentialist literature?

- A) Divine right
- B) Personal freedom**
- C) Collective farming
- D) Genetic modification

5. Which famous existentialist author wrote the novel 'The Stranger'?

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

6. Existentialism gained significant popularity as a movement during which period?

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

7. Simone de Beauvoir, a prominent existentialist, wrote which influential feminist text?

A) The Second Sex

- B) The Communist Manifesto
- C) Pride and Prejudice
- D) Emma

8. Existentialism emphasizes that individuals are responsible for creating their own what?

A) Meaning

- B) Biology
- C) Physics
- D) Genetics

9. Which German philosopher's ideas on 'will to power' influenced existentialist thought?

A) Friedrich Nietzsche

- B) Ludwig Wittgenstein
- C) Max Weber
- D) Gottfried Leibniz

10. The existentialist focus on 'angst' or 'dread' refers to what?

A) Physical illness

B) Anxiety about existence

- C) Fear of animals
- D) Mathematical confusion

11. Which city is historically synonymous with the Parisian existentialist café culture?

A) Paris

- B) Berlin
- C) London
- D) Rome

12. Existentialism suggests that the universe is fundamentally what?

A) Predetermined

B) Indifferent

- C) Predictable
- D) Mathematical

13. What does the term 'facticity' in existentialism generally refer to?

A) The facts of one's environment and past

- B) The speed of light
- C) The laws of gravity
- D) The study of fossils

14. In existentialism, the concept of 'authenticity' involves what?

A) Living in accordance with one's self

- B) Following orders blindly
- C) Denying the past
- D) Obeying fashion trends

15. Who wrote the play 'No Exit', which features the famous line 'Hell is other people'?

A) Jean-Paul Sartre

- B) Samuel Beckett
- C) Arthur Miller
- D) Henrik Ibsen

16. Existentialists often rejected the idea that human nature is what?

A) Fixed or innate

- B) Capable of learning
- C) Subject to change
- D) Defined by actions

17. Which existentialist thinker explored the concept of the 'Absurd'?

A) Albert Camus

- B) Thomas Hobbes
- C) David Hume
- D) John Stuart Mill

18. Existentialism is often categorized as a type of what?

A) Humanistic philosophy

- B) Scientific theory
- C) Agricultural policy
- D) Military strategy

19. Which term describes the existentialist belief that humans must define their own values?

A) Self-creation

B) Darwinism

C) Fatalism

D) Absolutism

20. Existentialist thought often emphasizes the importance of which human capacity?

A) Free will

B) Photographic memory

C) Perfect digestion

D) Physical strength