

Existentialism: Key Milestones and Origins

Existentialism · Practice Test · 15 Questions

1. Which philosopher is widely credited with originating the term 'existentialism' in a significant philosophical context?

- A) Friedrich Nietzsche
- B) Søren Kierkegaard
- C) Jean-Paul Sartre
- D) Martin Heidegger

2. What is considered the first major published work to extensively explore existential themes, often cited as a precursor to existentialism?

- A) Thus Spoke Zarathustra
- B) Being and Time
- C) Fear and Trembling
- D) The Myth of Sisyphus

3. Which existentialist thinker famously explored the concept of 'the absurd' in his essay of the same name?

- A) Simone de Beauvoir
- B) Albert Camus
- C) Karl Jaspers
- D) Gabriel Marcel

4. In what year was Jean-Paul Sartre's seminal work, 'Being and Nothingness,' first published, a cornerstone of existentialist thought?

- A) 1938
- B) 1943
- C) 1950
- D) 1958

5. Who was the first prominent female existentialist philosopher to publish a major work on feminist existentialism, 'The Second Sex'?

- A) Iris Murdoch
- B) Hannah Arendt
- C) Simone de Beauvoir
- D) Susan Sontag

6. Which German philosopher, influential in existentialism, published 'Being and Time' in 1927, a foundational text for the movement?

- A) Ludwig Wittgenstein
- B) Martin Heidegger
- C) Max Weber
- D) G.W.F. Hegel

7. What key concept, central to existentialism, describes the idea that existence precedes essence, meaning individuals define themselves through their choices and actions?

- A) Determinism
- B) Nihilism
- C) Existentialism
- D) Absurdism

8. Which of these Danish philosophers is considered one of the earliest and most significant figures in existential thought, often contrasted with Hegel?

- A) Georg Brandes
- B) H. L. Mencken
- C) Søren Kierkegaard
- D) Hans Christian Andersen

9. In what city did Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir become prominent figures in post-World War II intellectual circles, fostering existentialist discourse?

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

10. What was the original title of the philosophical essay by Albert Camus that introduced and explored his concept of the absurd?

- A) The Rebel
- B) The Stranger
- C) The Myth of Sisyphus
- D) The Plague

11. Which existentialist philosopher explored the idea of 'bad faith,' where individuals deny their freedom and responsibility by adopting societal roles or external justifications?

- A) Maurice Merleau-Ponty
- B) Jean-Paul Sartre
- C) Martin Buber
- D) Paul Tillich

12. What term did Friedrich Nietzsche use to describe the individual's self-overcoming and the creation of personal values, a concept that resonated with existentialists?

- A) The Will to Power
- B) The Eternal Recurrence
- C) The Übermensch
- D) The Herd Instinct

13. Which existentialist thinker, known for his work on phenomenology, explored the embodied nature of human existence and consciousness?

- A) Emile Durkheim
- B) Maurice Merleau-Ponty
- C) Max Scheler
- D) Edmund Husserl

14. What is the primary philosophical focus of Karl Jaspers' concept of 'the Encompassing' in existential philosophy?

- A) The objective study of society
- B) The subjective experience of reality and transcendence
- C) The scientific method
- D) The laws of nature

15. Which influential existentialist philosopher and theologian explored the concept of 'faith as passion' and the individual's leap of faith?

- A) Reinhold Niebuhr
- B) Paul Tillich
- C) Søren Kierkegaard
- D) Dietrich Bonhoeffer