

Introduction to Existentialist Thought

Philosophy · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which 19th-century philosopher is widely considered the father of existentialism and focused on the importance of individual subjective experience?

- A) Soren Kierkegaard**
- B) John Locke
- C) David Hume
- D) Adam Smith

2. In existentialist philosophy, what term describes the idea that individuals define their own essence through their actions and choices?

- A) Determinism
- B) Existence precedes essence**
- C) Tabula rasa
- D) Natural law

3. Jean-Paul Sartre famously stated that because there is no pre-determined purpose for humans, people are 'condemned to' what?

- A) Happiness
- B) Ignorance
- C) Freedom**
- D) Suffering

4. Which French philosopher and writer was a key figure in 20th-century existentialism and wrote the play 'No Exit'?

- A) Albert Camus
- B) Jean-Paul Sartre**
- C) Friedrich Nietzsche
- D) Simone de Beauvoir

5. Friedrich Nietzsche famously proclaimed the death of which concept, which existentialists argue forces individuals to create their own values?

- A) The state
- B) God**
- C) Science
- D) Tradition

6. Existentialists often emphasize the individual's experience of 'angst' or 'anxiety.' In this context, what does this anxiety usually stem from?

- A) Fear of spiders
- B) Lack of oxygen
- C) Radical freedom and responsibility**
- D) Biological hunger

7. Which author, known for the novel 'The Stranger,' is associated with the existentialist-linked philosophy of absurdism?

- A) Albert Camus**
- B) Franz Kafka
- C) Fyodor Dostoevsky
- D) Martin Heidegger

8. Simone de Beauvoir, a prominent existentialist, is best known for her foundational work in which field of philosophy?

- A) The philosophy of physics
- B) Feminist existentialism**
- C) Political economics
- D) Stoic logic