

Foundations of Existentialist Philosophy

Philosophy · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which 19th-century philosopher is widely considered the precursor to existentialism, focusing on the individual's subjective experience?

- A) Søren Kierkegaard**
- B) John Locke
- C) David Hume
- D) Immanuel Kant

2. Jean-Paul Sartre famously stated that for human beings, 'existence precedes essence.' What does this core existentialist tenet imply?

- A) Humans are born with a pre-defined destiny
- B) Humans create their own values through actions**
- C) Biological nature dictates human behavior
- D) Society determines an individual's worth

3. Which influential German philosopher proposed the concept of 'Der Übermensch' (The Overman) in his work 'Thus Spoke Zarathustra'?

- A) Martin Heidegger
- B) Friedrich Nietzsche**
- C) Karl Jaspers
- D) Arthur Schopenhauer

4. Simone de Beauvoir authored which seminal 1949 text that applied existentialist principles to the analysis of gender roles?

- A) The Myth of Sisyphus
- B) Being and Nothingness
- C) The Second Sex**
- D) Nausea

5. In Albert Camus' essay 'The Myth of Sisyphus,' he uses the metaphor of Sisyphus to illustrate the concept of what?

- A) Radical freedom
- B) The Absurd**
- C) Social contract
- D) Utilitarianism

**6. Martin Heidegger introduced the term 'Dasein' in his major work 'Being and Time.'
What is the literal translation of this German term?**

A) Being-there

B) Higher mind

C) Hidden soul

D) Moral choice

7. Which existentialist thinker spent time as a member of the French Resistance during World War II, influencing his focus on political engagement?

A) Gabriel Marcel

B) Jean-Paul Sartre

C) Friedrich Nietzsche

D) Søren Kierkegaard

8. Existentialism gained significant cultural popularity in the mid-20th century, particularly within the intellectual circles of which specific city?

A) Berlin

B) London

C) Paris

D) New York