

Introduction to Existentialism

Philosophy · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which 19th-century philosopher is often considered the 'father of existentialism' for his focus on individual choice?

- A) Friedrich Nietzsche
- B) Søren Kierkegaard**
- C) Jean-Paul Sartre
- D) Albert Camus

2. Which French philosopher and writer famously declared that 'existence precedes essence'?

- A) Simone de Beauvoir
- B) Albert Camus
- C) Jean-Paul Sartre**
- D) Martin Heidegger

3. In existentialist thought, what does the phrase 'existence precedes essence' primarily mean?

- A) Humans create their own values after they are born**
- B) People are born with a fixed purpose
- C) Destiny is determined by biology
- D) Society decides who a person will become

4. Which concept describes the existentialist belief that humans are responsible for their own actions in a world without inherent meaning?

- A) Fatalism
- B) Radical freedom**
- C) Divine intervention
- D) Historical determinism

5. Who wrote the influential existentialist essay 'The Myth of Sisyphus', which explores the concept of the absurd?

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

6. Existentialism became particularly popular as an intellectual movement in Europe during which time period?

A) The Enlightenment

B) The mid-20th century

C) The Renaissance

D) The Industrial Revolution

7. Which German philosopher is known for his work 'Thus Spoke Zarathustra' and his exploration of individual power?

A) Friedrich Nietzsche

B) Søren Kierkegaard

C) Karl Jaspers

D) Martin Heidegger

8. Simone de Beauvoir is a key existentialist figure who is also widely known for her contribution to which movement?

A) Modernism

B) Feminism

C) Environmentalism

D) Utilitarianism

9. What term do existentialists often use to describe the feeling of being overwhelmed by the total freedom of choice?

A) Euphoria

B) Angst

C) Apathy

D) Indifference

10. Which existentialist concept refers to the search for meaning in a world that provides none?

A) The Absurd

B) The Infinite

C) The Divine

D) The Absolute