

Introduction to Existentialism

Philosophy · Practice Test · 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