

Milestones of Existentialist Thought

Existentialism · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Which 19th-century philosopher is credited with being the first to use the term 'existential' in a modern philosophical context to describe his own thought?

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

2. Jean-Paul Sartre delivered a famous 1945 lecture that served as the primary manifesto for popularizing the movement; what is the title of this work?

- A) Being and Nothingness
- B) Existentialism Is a Humanism**
- C) Nausea
- D) The Myth of Sisyphus

3. Which philosophical work, published in 1943 by Jean-Paul Sartre, introduced the foundational concepts of 'being-in-itself' and 'being-for-itself'?

- A) The Ethics of Ambiguity
- B) The Second Sex
- C) Being and Nothingness**
- D) No Exit

4. Which Danish author is historically regarded as the 'father of existentialism' for his explorations of individual subjectivity and 'leaps of faith'?

- A) Albert Camus
- B) Søren Kierkegaard**
- C) Arthur Schopenhauer
- D) Karl Jaspers

5. In 1942, Albert Camus published an essay that introduced the concept of the 'Absurd' as the conflict between the human search for meaning and the 'silent' universe; what was the title?

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

6. Which landmark 1927 publication by Martin Heidegger attempted to define the fundamental 'question of Being' and introduced the concept of Dasein?

A) Being and Time

B) The Question Concerning Technology

C) What Is Metaphysics?

D) Pathmarks

7. Simone de Beauvoir's 1949 masterpiece is widely recognized as the first major existentialist analysis of gender; what is the title?

A) The Mandarins

B) She Came to Stay

C) The Second Sex

D) Force of Circumstance

8. Friedrich Nietzsche was the first to popularize which specific concept, later adopted by existentialists, regarding the absence of divine governance in human morality?

A) The Ubermensch

B) The Death of God

C) Eternal Recurrence

D) Will to Power