

Introduction to Existentialist Thought

Philosophy · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which European country is often considered the birthplace of modern existentialist philosophy?

- A) France**
- B) Japan
- C) Brazil
- D) Australia

2. Jean-Paul Sartre was a famous philosopher associated with which 20th-century movement?

- A) Existentialism**
- B) Stoicism
- C) Platonism
- D) Realism

3. Which Danish thinker is often called the 'father of existentialism'?

- A) Søren Kierkegaard**
- B) Aristotle
- C) Confucius
- D) Isaac Newton

4. In existentialist thought, the idea that a person creates their own purpose is often called what?

- A) Self-creation**
- B) Biological determinism
- C) Solar alignment
- D) Geology

5. Simone de Beauvoir was a prominent existentialist writer known for her contributions to which field?

- A) Gender studies**
- B) Marine biology
- C) Astrophysics
- D) Computer coding

6. Existentialism gained significant popularity among intellectuals following which major global event?

A) World War II

- B) The discovery of fire
- C) The invention of the wheel
- D) The Industrial Revolution

7. Which term describes the existentialist belief that humans are entirely responsible for their own actions?

A) Personal responsibility

- B) Divine guidance
- C) Genetic luck
- D) Group think

8. Albert Camus, a key figure linked to existentialism, wrote a famous novel titled what?

A) The Stranger

- B) The Hungry Caterpillar
- C) Green Eggs and Ham
- D) Treasure Island

9. Existentialism focuses heavily on the importance of which aspect of human life?

A) Individual choice

- B) National borders
- C) Crop rotation
- D) Arithmetic patterns

10. Friedrich Nietzsche, often studied in existentialism, famously wrote about the concept of the 'Übermensch' in which language?

A) German

- B) Mandarin
- C) Arabic
- D) Swahili

11. The existentialist focus on 'existence precedes essence' implies that humans exist first and then define their what?

A) Nature

- B) Height
- C) Blood type
- D) Fingerprints

12. Which city is famous for the cafes where existentialist philosophers gathered to debate in the mid-1900s?

- A) Paris**
- B) Sydney
- C) Cairo
- D) Ottawa

13. Existentialists often emphasize the importance of living in the present rather than dwelling on the what?

- A) Past**
- B) Future
- C) Weather
- D) Speed

14. Which philosophical concept, often discussed by existentialists, deals with the feeling of 'nothingness' or lack of inherent meaning?

- A) Absurdism**
- B) Calculus
- C) Gravity
- D) Photosynthesis

15. Existentialism encourages people to be authentic rather than following what?

- A) Social norms**
- B) The laws of physics
- C) Mathematical formulas
- D) Biological instincts

16. Karl Jaspers was an existentialist philosopher who also worked as a what?

- A) Psychiatrist**
- B) Astronaut
- C) Chef
- D) Mechanic

17. Existentialism is a branch of philosophy that prioritizes the study of human what?

- A) Experience**
- B) Insects
- C) Minerals
- D) Rainfall

18. The existentialist movement influenced not just philosophy, but also which form of art?

A) Literature

B) Architecture

C) Shipbuilding

D) Mining