

Advanced Philosophy: Factual Recall Challenge

Philosophy · Practice Test · 18 Questions

1. Which pre-Socratic philosopher is credited with the doctrine of 'apeiron' (the boundless or infinite) as the arche or primary substance of all things?

- A) Heraclitus
- B) Parmenides
- C) Anaximander
- D) Anaximenes

2. In Aristotle's metaphysics, what term refers to the form or essence of a thing, as opposed to its matter?

- A) Telos
- B) Hylomorphism
- C) Eidos
- D) Aetion

3. What is the name of the argument proposed by Anselm of Canterbury to prove the existence of God, relying on the concept of a perfect being?

- A) The Cosmological Argument
- B) The Teleological Argument
- C) The Ontological Argument
- D) The Argument from Evil

4. René Descartes' famous statement 'Cogito, ergo sum' ('I think, therefore I am') is a foundational element of which philosophical movement?

- A) Empiricism
- B) Stoicism
- C) Rationalism
- D) Existentialism

5. John Locke's concept of the mind as a 'tabula rasa' at birth is central to which epistemological tradition?

- A) Nativism
- B) Rationalism
- C) Empiricism
- D) Skepticism

6. Immanuel Kant's 'Categorical Imperative' is a core principle in his ethical system. Which of the following is a formulation of it?

- A) Act only according to that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law.
- B) The greatest happiness for the greatest number.
- C) Virtue is the only good.
- D) Follow the dictates of reason and nature.

7. Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel's philosophical system is characterized by the dialectical method, involving thesis, antithesis, and what?

- A) Paradox
- B) Synthesis
- C) Aporia
- D) Dialectic

8. Friedrich Nietzsche's concept of the 'Übermensch' (Overman or Superman) is most closely associated with his critique of which prevailing moral system?

- A) Utilitarianism
- B) Existentialism
- C) Christian Morality
- D) Nihilism

9. Ludwig Wittgenstein's later philosophy, particularly in his 'Philosophical Investigations,' emphasizes the concept of 'language games.' What does this concept highlight?

- A) The logical structure of propositions.
- B) The inherent meaning of words.
- C) Meaning as use within specific social contexts.
- D) The universal grammar underlying all languages.

10. The philosophical school of Logical Positivism, prominent in the early 20th century, advocated for verification as a criterion of meaning. This is known as the:

- A) Coherence Theory of Truth
- B) Correspondence Theory of Truth
- C) Verification Principle
- D) Pragmatic Theory of Truth

11. Martin Heidegger's seminal work 'Being and Time' explores the meaning of 'Dasein.'

What does this term refer to?

- A) The objective reality of the world
- B) The theoretical reason of the mind
- C) Human existence, or 'being-in-the-world'
- D) The divine presence

12. Jean-Paul Sartre, a key figure in existentialism, famously stated that 'existence precedes _____.'

- A) Reason
- B) Essence
- C) Consciousness
- D) Freedom

13. Michel Foucault's analysis of power often centers on the concept of 'biopower.'

What does this term describe?

- A) The inherent authority of rulers.
- B) The power to govern populations through control of life processes (birth, death, health).
- C) The economic capacity of a state.
- D) The influence of religious institutions.

14. What philosophical problem, articulated by David Chalmers, distinguishes between the 'easy problems' of consciousness (e.g., explaining neural correlates) and the 'hard problem' of subjective experience?

- A) The Mind-Body Problem
- B) The Problem of Qualia
- C) The Hard Problem of Consciousness
- D) The Problem of Other Minds

15. The concept of the 'veil of ignorance' is a central thought experiment in the political philosophy of which contemporary thinker?

- A) Robert Nozick
- B) Jürgen Habermas
- C) John Rawls
- D) Amartya Sen

16. In the philosophy of language, what is the distinction between sense (Sinn) and reference (Bedeutung) as developed by Gottlob Frege?

- A) Sense is the property of being true, reference is the property of being false.
- B) Sense is the mode of presentation of a reference, which is the object itself.
- C) Sense is subjective interpretation, reference is objective fact.
- D) Sense refers to abstract concepts, reference refers to concrete objects.

17. The philosophical position that denies the existence of objective truth or knowledge, often leading to a rejection of absolute moral standards, is called:

- A) Pragmatism
- B) Skepticism
- C) Nihilism
- D) Relativism

18. What is the primary focus of virtue ethics, as contrasted with deontology and consequentialism?

- A) Adherence to moral duties and rules.
- B) Maximizing good outcomes.
- C) The character and virtues of the moral agent.
- D) The justification of political authority.