Historical Foundations of Existentialism

Philosophy · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. Which 19th-century Danish philosopher is widely considered the father of existentialism?

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

2. In which city did Jean-Paul Sartre and Simone de Beauvoir famously hold discussions at the Café de Flore?

A) London
B) Berlin
C) Paris
D) Rome

3. Which famous work by Jean-Paul Sartre was published in 1943 during the German occupation of France?

A) The Myth of Sisyphus
B) Being and Nothingness
C) Thus Spoke Zarathustra
D) Fear and Trembling

4. Which German philosopher wrote the influential 1927 book 'Being and Time'?

A) Karl Jaspers
B) Martin Heidegger
C) Edmund Husserl
D) Arthur Schopenhauer

5. Simone de Beauvoir published which foundational text of existentialist feminism in 1949?

A) The Second Sex
B) The Ethics of Ambiguity
C) Nausea
D) The Stranger

6. Albert Camus was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature in which year?

A) 1945
B) 1952
C) 1957
D) 1960

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7. Which term did Jean-Paul Sartre use in his 1946 lecture 'Existentialism is a Humanism' to describe the core tenet of the philosophy?

A) Existence precedes essence
B) Essence precedes existence
C) God is dead
D) The absurd is reality

8. Friedrich Nietzsche, often associated with existentialist thought, was born in which country?

A) France
B) Austria
C) Germany
D) Switzerland

9. The term 'The Absurd' is most closely associated with the works of which French-Algerian writer?

A) Gabriel Marcel
B) Albert Camus
C) Maurice Merleau-Ponty
D) Franz Kafka

10. Which existentialist thinker also served as a member of the French Resistance during World War II?

A) Søren Kierkegaard
B) Albert Camus
C) Friedrich Nietzsche
D) Arthur Schopenhauer

11. Which existentialist philosopher was a contemporary of Martin Heidegger and also taught at the University of Freiburg?

A) Karl Jaspers
B) Edmund Husserl
C) Jean-Paul Sartre
D) Simone de Beauvoir

12. In what decade did existentialism reach the height of its popularity in post-war French intellectual circles?

A) 1920s
B) 1930s
C) 1940s
D) 1960s

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