Existentialism: Origins and Milestones

Existentialism · Answer Key · 20 Questions

1. Which Danish philosopher is historically credited with being the first to lay the foundations of existentialism in the 19th century?

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

2. Which 1946 publication is widely considered the first major manifesto to introduce existentialism as a coherent philosophical movement to the public?

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

3. Which landmark 1927 book by Martin Heidegger introduced the fundamental concept of 'Dasein' to philosophical discourse?

A) Being and Time
B) The Question of Being
C) Discourse on Thinking
D) Kant and the Problem of Metaphysics

4. What is the title of the 1938 novel by Jean-Paul Sartre, often cited as the first major existentialist work of fiction?

A) Nausea
B) The Age of Reason
C) The Flies
D) No Exit

5. Which philosopher is credited with the first major articulation of the concept of the 'Death of God' in his 1882 work 'The Gay Science'?

A) Friedrich Nietzsche
B) Arthur Schopenhauer
C) Albert Camus
D) Karl Jaspers

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6. Who was the first female philosopher to write an extensive existentialist treatise on the 'othering' of women, published in 1949?

A) Simone de Beauvoir
B) Hannah Arendt
C) Iris Murdoch
D) Edith Stein

7. In 1942, Albert Camus published his first major philosophical essay exploring the concept of the absurd. What is its title?

A) The Myth of Sisyphus
B) The Rebel
C) The Plague
D) Caligula

8. Which psychological movement was co-founded by Viktor Frankl, representing the first major attempt to apply existentialist principles to clinical therapy?

A) Logotherapy
B) Psychoanalysis
C) Cognitive Behavioral Therapy
D) Humanistic Psychology

9. What was the first journal dedicated specifically to the promotion and analysis of existentialist thought, founded in France in 1945?

A) Les Temps Modernes
B) La Nouvelle Revue Française
C) Existentialisme
D) Le Monde

10. Which 19th-century Russian author is often credited with producing the first literary existentialist masterpiece, 'Notes from Underground'?

A) Fyodor Dostoevsky
B) Leo Tolstoy
C) Ivan Turgenev
D) Anton Chekhov

11. Who coined the term 'existentialism' (existentialisme) as a label for the movement in a public lecture held in 1945?

A) Jean-Paul Sartre
B) Gabriel Marcel
C) Maurice Merleau-Ponty
D) Simone de Beauvoir

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12. Which philosophical concept, signifying the lack of inherent meaning, was first popularized in existentialist literature through the metaphor of the 'absurd'?

A) Absurdism
B) Nihilism
C) Structuralism
D) Phenomenology

13. Which German philosopher was the first to use the term 'Existenzphilosophie' in his 1932 work 'Philosophy'?

A) Karl Jaspers
B) Martin Heidegger
C) Edmund Husserl
D) Friedrich Nietzsche

14. What is the first major existentialist work to challenge traditional Cartesian dualism by emphasizing bodily experience?

A) Phenomenology of Perception
B) Being and Nothingness
C) The Second Sex
D) The Ethics of Ambiguity

15. Which 19th-century thinker's posthumous 1901 compilation, 'The Will to Power', first popularized the idea of the 'Übermensch'?

A) Friedrich Nietzsche
B) Søren Kierkegaard
C) Arthur Schopenhauer
D) Max Stirner

16. In which city did the famous 1945 lecture take place where the principles of existentialism were first codified as a 'humanism'?

A) Paris
B) Berlin
C) Vienna
D) Copenhagen

17. Which thinker is credited with the first detailed analysis of 'facticity' in the context of existential freedom?

A) Martin Heidegger
B) Jean-Paul Sartre
C) Albert Camus
D) Simone de Beauvoir

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18. What was the first English-language translation of a major existentialist text, which appeared in 1947?

A) Existentialism by Jean-Paul Sartre
B) Being and Time by Martin Heidegger
C) The Myth of Sisyphus by Albert Camus
D) The Ethics of Ambiguity by Simone de Beauvoir

19. Who first developed the concept of 'situatedness' (la situation) to describe how individuals are embedded in a specific historical context?

A) Jean-Paul Sartre
B) Gabriel Marcel
C) Karl Jaspers
D) Maurice Merleau-Ponty

20. Which seminal existentialist work was the first to explicitly outline the concept of 'radical freedom' in 1943?

A) Being and Nothingness
B) The Myth of Sisyphus
C) The Age of Reason
D) Nausea

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