Cosmological Philosophy and Astronomy

Philosophy And Astronomy · Practice Test · 12 Questions

1. Which 17th-century philosopher and astronomer proposed the elliptical orbit of planets, thereby providing the empirical foundation for modern celestial mechanics?

A) Galileo Galilei
B) Johannes Kepler
C) Isaac Newton
D) René Descartes

2. In the context of the Kalam cosmological argument, what scientific theory regarding the beginning of the universe is often cited as supporting the premise that the universe has a finite past?

A) Steady State theory
B) Big Bang theory
C) Cyclic Model
D) Multiverse hypothesis

3. Which philosopher famously argued in 'The Critique of Pure Reason' that space and time are 'a priori' forms of human intuition rather than things in themselves?

A) David Hume
B) Immanuel Kant
C) Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz
D) John Locke

4. What is the term for the philosophical position, often associated with the Copernican Revolution, that Earth holds no privileged status or central position in the universe?

A) Anthropocentrism
B) Geocentrism
C) The Mediocrity Principle
D) Ptolemaic system

5. Which astronomer and philosopher's 1543 work 'De revolutionibus orbium coelestium' fundamentally challenged the geocentric model of the universe?

A) Nicolaus Copernicus
B) Tycho Brahe
C) Giordano Bruno
D) Aristarchus of Samos

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6. What philosophical problem addresses the observation that the universe appears fine-tuned for the existence of intelligent life, often leading to debates about the Anthropic Principle?

A) The Problem of Induction
B) The Fine-Tuning Problem
C) The Ship of Theseus
D) The Gettier Problem

7. Which cosmological model, advocated by Thomas Gold, Hermann Bondi, and Fred Hoyle in the 1940s, posited that the universe has no beginning or end?

A) Big Bounce
B) Inflationary Universe
C) Steady State Theory
D) Conformal Cyclic Cosmology

8. Which philosopher argued that space is not an entity but a system of relations between existing things, contrary to Isaac Newton's view of absolute space?

A) Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz
B) Baruch Spinoza
C) Thomas Hobbes
D) Francis Bacon

9. What is the name of the phenomenon, identified by Edwin Hubble, which provides empirical evidence that the universe is expanding, impacting modern metaphysical discussions on the nature of cosmic origins?

A) Stellar parallax
B) Redshift of galaxies
C) Cosmic microwave background
D) Synchrotron radiation

10. Which philosopher proposed that the sun is the center of the universe in a heliocentric model nearly 1800 years before the scientific revolution?

A) Anaximander
B) Aristarchus of Samos
C) Democritus
D) Parmenides

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11. What celestial limit, named after an Indian-American astrophysicist, defines the maximum mass a stable white dwarf star can reach before collapsing into a neutron star or black hole?

A) Chandrasekhar limit
B) Eddington limit
C) Roche limit
D) Schwarzschild radius

12. Which 20th-century thinker wrote 'The Nature of the Physical World', bridging the gap between quantum mechanics, relativity, and philosophical reality?

A) Bertrand Russell
B) Arthur Eddington
C) Ludwig Wittgenstein
D) Karl Popper

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