Introduction to Existentialist Philosophy

Philosophy · Answer Key · 18 Questions

1. Which French philosopher is widely considered the most famous figure of Existentialism?

A) Jean-Paul Sartre
B) Plato
C) Aristotle
D) Confucius

2. What is a central theme in Existentialism regarding individual life?

A) Determined fate
B) Freedom of choice
C) Ancient legends
D) Scientific formulas

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

A) Soren Kierkegaard
B) Karl Marx
C) John Locke
D) Isaac Newton

4. Existentialism suggests that individuals define their own meaning through what?

A) Inherited wealth
B) Actions and decisions
C) The weather
D) Group voting

5. Which of these concepts is frequently discussed in Existentialist literature?

A) The responsibility of freedom
B) The speed of light
C) The history of rocks
D) Chemical reactions

6. Who was the French author and philosopher who wrote 'The Second Sex' and explored existential themes?

A) Simone de Beauvoir
B) Marie Curie
C) Joan of Arc
D) Victor Hugo

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7. In Existentialism, what does the phrase 'existence precedes essence' mean?

A) We are born first, then we define who we are
B) We are born with a fixed destiny
C) Rules are more important than people
D) Nature creates our personality

8. Which historical period saw a major rise in the popularity of Existentialist thought?

A) The post-World War II era
B) The Roman Empire
C) The Middle Ages
D) The Stone Age

9. Existentialists believe that people are responsible for creating their own what?

A) Value systems
B) Biological DNA
C) Planetary orbits
D) Historical timelines

10. Which famous Existentialist author wrote 'The Stranger'?

A) Albert Camus
B) Charles Dickens
C) Mark Twain
D) Leo Tolstoy

11. Existentialism places a strong emphasis on which of the following?

A) Individual authenticity
B) Uniform behavior
C) Strict memorization
D) Standardized testing

12. What feeling do Existentialists often associate with the burden of absolute freedom?

A) Anguish or anxiety
B) Happiness
C) Indifference
D) Boredom

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13. Existentialism is a branch of which major field of study?

A) Philosophy
B) Botany
C) Astronomy
D) Geology

14. Existentialist thinkers often question the nature of the human what?

A) Condition
B) Atmosphere
C) Skeleton
D) Computer

15. Which of these is a key 'existential' question?

A) What is the meaning of my life?
B) What is the capital of France?
C) How long is a year?
D) What is two plus two?

16. Existentialism encourages people to be what to themselves?

A) Authentic
B) Competitive
C) Silent
D) Invisible

17. The study of Existentialism often focuses on the reality of being what?

A) Alive and conscious
B) A celestial body
C) A mathematical integer
D) An ancient fossil

18. Which word best describes the Existentialist view of the individual's role in the world?

A) Creator
B) Observer
C) Robot
D) Victim

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