

Test Item File

ABOUT PHILOSOPHY

Eleventh Edition

CHAPTER ONE

WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

Multiple Choice

1. Socrates discussed his philosophical ideas in:

- A. his school, the Academy.
- B. the public marketplace.
- C. the city of Miletus.
- D. Both A and B
- E. Both B and C

Answer: B

2. The Socratic Dialogues were written by whom?

- A. By Socrates, in the last years before his death
- B. the first few by Socrates, the rest by Plato after his death
- C. By Socrates, with Plato's help
- D. By Plato, with Socrates' help
- E. By Plato, after the death of Socrates

Answer: E

3. The intent of the Athenian rulers in prosecuting Socrates was to

- A. discourage him from writing more dialogues.
- B. have him put to death for his offenses.
- C. punish him for worshipping false gods.
- D. keep him from further threatening the political establishment by his teachings.
- E. embarrass and discredit him in a lengthy trial.

Answer: D

4. In his trial, Socrates chose to be executed rather than to cease practicing philosophy because:

- A. he held the examination of human nature, thought, and belief to be more important than mere survival.
- B. at the age of 70, he had nothing left to write.
- C. he preferred death to life in a society that had rejected him.
- D. he wanted to show the injustice of the Athenian judicial system.
- E. he mistakenly believed his jailers wouldn't actually carry out the sentence.

Answer: A

5. Our word for "philosophy" comes from a Greek expression meaning:

- A. wise fool.
- B. search for wisdom.
- C. love of wisdom.
- D. examined life.
- E. self-examination.

Answer: C

6. In Socrates' view, true happiness:

- A. is impossible in life, but may be achieved in the afterlife.
- B. is, sadly, incompatible with the practice of philosophy.
- C. can only be achieved in a democracy.
- D. lies in having the wisdom to accept one's fate without question.
- E. may be achieved through a process of self-examination.

Answer: E

7. According to Socrates:

- A. the principles of right thought and action vary from society to society.
- B. the principles of right thought and action vary from generation to generation.
- C. the principles of right thought and action are the same for all people at all times.
- D. there are no universal principles of thought and action--each of us is an individual.
- E. if there are universally valid principles of thought and action, it is impossible for mortals to know what they are.

Answer: C

8. Socrates believes the role of a teacher is to:

- A. pass on the truth to students.
- B. ask probing questions.
- C. demonstrate the true principles of thought and action.
- D. discover students' strengths and weaknesses.
- E. All of the above

Answer: B

9. When Socrates says he's ignorant of the nature of justice, he is:

- A. employing double-consciousness.
- B. lying.
- C. being ironic.
- D. trying to develop his interlocutor's "second-sight."
- E. Both A and D

Answer: C

10. Socrates was the first philosopher:

- A. to study cosmology.
- B. to write a dialogue.
- C. to found a school.
- D. in the western tradition.
- E. to develop the idea that there is a parallel between language and the world.

Answer: E

11. Thrasymachus claims that what is just is:

- A. whatever is in the interest of the most powerful members of society.
- B. possible only in a democracy.
- C. often different from what is "right."
- D. to give each citizen what he deserves.
- E. a matter of law, not philosophy.

Answer: A

12. The first western philosopher is traditionally thought to be:

- A. Socrates.
- B. Plato.
- C. Thales.
- D. Descartes.
- E. a Milesian thinker whose name is lost to history.

Answer: C

13. The ancient Milesian philosophers were primarily concerned with:

- A. the study of the nature of man.
- B. the pursuit of "the good life."
- C. the nature of ethical behavior.
- D. learning the order and composition of the universe.
- E. the relationship between man and the gods.

Answer: D

14. Which of the following was *not* one of the Milesian philosophers?

- A. Lucretius
- B. Thales
- C. Anaximander
- D. Anaximenes
- E. All of the above were Milesians.

Answer: A

15. One of Thales' philosophical positions was that everything is made of:

- A. fire.
- B. water.
- C. air.
- D. earth.
- E. energy.

Answer: B

16. A surprisingly modern belief of Lucretius is that the:

- A. proper study of philosophy is the nature of man.
- B. diversity of species can be explained by natural selection.
- C. earth revolves around the sun.
- D. world is made up of tiny, unseen bodies.
- E. stars are actually other suns at a great distance.

Answer: D

17. Lucretius cites the fact that a ring worn on the finger grows thinner over the years as evidence for his claim that:

- A. all things grow smaller over time.
- B. material objects are only temporary, not eternal.
- C. the universe is composed of what we would call atoms.
- D. physical reality is really an illusion.
- E. not everything can be explained by an appeal to natural processes.

Answer: C

18. According to the author:

- A. there is a philosophical component to virtually everything we do.
- B. philosophy is primarily conceptual analysis.
- C. philosophy is a sort of science that can be carried on without the use of precise instruments.
- D. philosophy is really a "handmaiden" of hard science.
- E. science is just philosophy being carried out by other means.

Answer: A

19. *Logos*, according to the Stoics, is:

- A. the power of words.
- B. the rational part of the soul.
- C. the rational power that organizes the universe.
- D. an ethical principle.
- E. an ideal state we may reach only through the study of philosophy.

Answer: C

20. Socrates believed the proper study for philosophers to be:

- A. the fundamental nature of the universe.
- B. the nature of man.
- C. the "good life."
- D. the four elements: earth, air, fire, and water.
- E. politics.

Answer: B

21. The philosophical notion of "natural law" has its origins in:

- A. the atomist ideas of Lucretius.
- B. Anaximander's cosmological theories.
- C. the Socratic Dialogues.
- D. Christian theological writings.
- E. the Stoic doctrine of logos.

Answer: E

22. According to Marcus Aurelius, a Roman Stoic:

- A. the universe should be regarded as an intelligent, living being.
- B. all things are fundamentally composed of atoms.
- C. there are four fundamental substances: earth, air, fire, and water.
- D. philosophers should study cosmology, rather than the nature of man.
- E. philosophers should study the nature of man, rather than cosmology.

Answer: A

23. Locke, Berkeley, and Hume were all:

- A. Stoics.
- B. atomists.
- C. Milesian Cosmologists.
- D. British Empiricists.
- E. Continental Rationalists.

Answer: D

24. Descartes, Leibniz, and Kant were all:

- A. Stoics.
- B. metaphysical idealists.
- C. Milesian Cosmologists.
- D. British Empiricists.
- E. Continental Rationalists.

Answer: E

25. According to empiricism:

- A. all knowledge is gained by the exercise of reason.
- B. all knowledge is obtained through the senses.
- C. we are born with innate knowledge.
- D. sensory perceptions cannot be trusted.
- E. learning is really a process of remembering what we already know.

Answer: B

26. According to rationalism:

- A. at least some knowledge is obtained by the exercise of reason.
- B. when we are born, our minds are "blank slates."
- C. nothing can ever be known with certainty.
- D. we cannot know things that the senses do not reveal to us.
- E. we ought to ignore the influence of emotion.

Answer: A

27. David Hume writes that logic:

- A. is the sole source of human knowledge.
- B. is never to be trusted.
- C. can only explain the principles and operations of reason.
- D. is the proper study of all philosophers.

E. is the foundation of ethical theory.

Answer: C

28. Epistemology is the study of:

- A. the human mind.
- B. sense perception.
- C. knowledge and belief.
- D. logic and mathematics.
- E. the nature and organization of the universe.

Answer: C

29. When the author states that philosophy ought to be rational, he means that:

- A. the British Empiricists were wrong.
- B. philosophers should be able to give reasons, evidence, and arguments for their beliefs.
- C. philosophical principles ought to apply to everyone everywhere.
- D. philosophers ought not be influenced by their non-philosophical views.
- E. philosophy ought to be treated like another branch of science.

Answer: B

30. His experiences with the "double-consciousness" of black South Africans has led the author to question whether philosophy is really:

- A. rational.
- B. objective.
- C. empirical.
- D. universal.
- E. logical.

Answer: D

31. The author suggests that an authentic African-American philosophy would have to be:

- A. founded upon the writings of African philosophers.
- B. an exploration of the philosophical implications of the African-American experience.
- C. written and read only by African-Americans.
- D. written in American universities.
- E. written from an objective point of view.

Answer: B

32. The "double-consciousness" referred to by Du Bois is:

- A. intended only as a metaphor.
- B. simultaneously seeing oneself both as an individual and as a member of one's race.
- C. experienced only by the educated elite.
- D. an idea founded upon Stoic philosophy.
- E. an idea founded upon the views of the British Empiricists.

Answer: B

33. Richard Rorty attributes the “anti-democratic” strain in Heidegger to his:

- A. doctrine of Man.
- B. concept of Reason.
- C. idea of History.
- D. taking Philosophy too seriously.
- E. contempt for Christianity.

Answer: D

34. According to Rorty, if we look for the “essence” of Heidegger’s works too avidly we will:

- A. overlook the delights of his prose.
- B. read him as he did not wish to be read.
- C. fall into a kind of “fundamentalism.”
- D. be forced to deny his similarities with Hitler.
- E. None of the above

Answer: C

35. Heidegger’s experiences with Nazism and anti-Semitism did not include:

- A. deleting references to Husserl from later editions of his books.
- B. defending his views on grounds of academic freedom.
- C. addressing a Nazi rally.
- D. enforcing anti-Jewish regulations at the university.
- E. praising Hitler in public forums.

Answer: B

36. What is the Socratic Method?

- A. A technique of probing questions
- B. The study of the order of the world
- C. A norm in accordance with which the universe has been created
- D. The theory that human knowledge comes from the five senses
- E. The constant repetition of negative judgments by white people

Answer: A

37. What is cosmology?

- A. A theory of natural beauty
- B. The study of the order of the world
- C. A norm in accordance with which the universe has been created
- D. The theory that human knowledge comes from reason
- E. The discipline that investigates the correct principles of formal reasoning

Answer: B