Philosophy Quiz 01 – Introduction

Grade: ______ / 6

(01.1) What is the study of how we should act?
[A] Metaphysics
[B] Epistemology
[C] Aesthetics
[D] Logic
[E] Ethics

(01.2) What is the study of art and beauty?
[A] Metaphysics
[B] Epistemology
[C] Aesthetics
[D] Logic
[E] Ethics

(01.3) What is the study of arguments and proper reasoning?
[A] Metaphysics
[B] Epistemology
[C] Aesthetics
[D] Logic
[E] Ethics

(01.4) What is the study of the theory of knowledge?
[A] Metaphysics
[B] Epistemology
[C] Aesthetics
[D] Logic
[E] Ethics

(01.5) The word “philosophy” is Greek for:
[A] love of wisdom.
[B] desire of knowledge.
[C] first of two.
[D] the last thinker.
(01.6) Reason is holding a proposition to be true based on rational investigation.

[A] True
[B] False
Philosophy Quiz 02 – Philosophy in its Infancy

Grade: _______ / 23

(02.1) Reasoning is what?
[A] A modern variation on two Greek words
[B] To systematically think about some problem and justify your position
[C] It concerns the ultimate nature of reality

(02.2) The problem of the one and the many can be explained by the saying:
[A] true knowledge is based on reason.
[B] what is the fundamental element found in all things.
[C] one is relative to each.

(02.3) Empedocles thought that:
[A] one is being itself.
[B] one is atoms.
[C] one is the four elements.

(02.4) Parmenides thought that:
[A] one is not a number.
[B] one is atoms.
[C] one is being itself.

(02.5) Democritus thought that:
[A] one is atoms.
[B] one is fire.
[C] one is a number.

(02.6) Who said, “You cannot step in the same river twice?”
[A] Heraclitus
[B] Thales
[C] Parmenides
[D] Anaximenes

(02.7) Which pre-Socratic philosopher believed that the body was the source of evil and that the purpose of life was to purify the soul of the influence of the body?
[A] Parmenides
[B] Pythagoras
[C] Thales
[D] Anaximander
(02.8) Which pre-Socratic philosopher developed a theory of reincarnation?
[A] Parmenides  
[B] Pythagoras  
[C] Thales  
[D] Anaximander

(02.9) Which pre-Socratic philosopher used his theory of the nature of atoms to explain the character of our sensations (such as our sense of color or the way certain foods taste)?
[A] Parmenides 
[B] Democritus  
[C] Heraclitus  
[D] Anaximander

(02.10) Who is known as the Father of Western Philosophy?
[A] Parmenides  
[B] Pythagoras  
[C] Thales  
[D] Anaximander

(02.11) Which pre-Socratic philosopher said that everything was air?
[A] Anaximander  
[B] Anaximenes  
[C] Heraclitus  
[D] Empedocles

(02.12) Which pre-Socratic philosopher thought that the constantly changing nature of reality was nevertheless made uniform and orderly because it was governed by a force or principle he called Logos?
[A] Democritus  
[B] Pythagoras  
[C] Parmenides  
[D] Heraclitus

(02.13) Which pre-Socratic philosopher wrote riddles and various paradoxical sayings?
[A] Democritus  
[B] Pythagoras  
[C] Parmenides  
[D] Heraclitus
(02.14) Which pre-Socratic philosopher said that reality was one and that nothing changes?
[A] Pythagoras  
[B] Parmenides  
[C] Heraclitus  
[D] Thales

(02.15) Which pre-Socratic philosopher believed that nature or the world came out of the struggle of fundamental oppositions?
[A] Thales  
[B] Anaximander  
[C] Anaximenes  
[D] Anaxagoras

(02.16) Philosophy emerged in ancient Greece when thinkers began to move from:
[A] more mythological to more rational ways of explaining the world.  
[B] more agricultural to more industrial ways of making a living.  
[C] more rational to more mythological ways of explaining the world.  
[D] more scientific to more religious ways of explaining the meaning of life.

(02.17) What was Heraclitus’ symbol for reality?
[A] Earth  
[B] Air  
[C] Fire  
[D] Water

(02.18) Which pre-Socratic philosopher argued that change and motion were illusions and that we shouldn’t listen to what our senses tell us about the world?
[A] Democritus  
[B] Pythagoras  
[C] Parmenides  
[D] Heraclitus

(02.19) Which pre-Socratic philosopher said that Being neither was nor will be but simply just is?
[A] Democritus  
[B] Pythagoras  
[C] Parmenides  
[D] Heraclitus
Which pre-Socratic philosopher believed that the cosmos generated a kind of glorious symphony (the *Harmony of the Heavenly Spheres*) that we could not hear unless our souls were sufficiently purified of the influences of our bodies?

[A] Democritus  
[B] Pythagoras  
[C] Anaximenes  
[D] Heraclitus

Predecessors of Socrates seemed to focus on which three?

[A] Are there many things or one thing that appears to be many?  
[B] Is there really knowledge in truth?  
[C] Is there a god?  
[D] What is the world made of?  
[E] Are we all fated?  
[F] How do we account for change while things seem to be permanent?

Thales, Anaximander, and Anaximenes looked for:

[A] the seed of the universe.  
[B] material monism.  
[C] spiritual knowledge.  
[D] the well of the souls.

Pythagoreans used ________ as a way to understand the principles that govern the world, allowing us to understand harmony.

[A] science  
[B] religion  
[C] mathematics  
[D] agriculture
(03.1) According to Socrates:
[A] if life could become a party, then life is worth living.
[B] too many questions can make life not worth living.
[C] the unexamined life is not worth living.

(03.2) The Socratic method primarily focuses on:
[A] questions.
[B] gadflies.
[C] Athenian youth.
[D] justice.
[E] honor.

(03.3) For Socrates, the greatest thing a person can do is:
[A] question oneself and others to discover what makes us good.
[B] accept that the word is never perfect.
[C] leave society and go live with the Oracle at Delphi.
[D] accept the fact that other people can never be wise.

(03.4) Socrates was condemned to death for:
[A] his ideas.
[B] he knew what he didn’t know.
[C] corrupting the youth.
[D] not fighting the Spartans.

(03.5) While the Oracle at Delphi claimed Socrates was the wisest of men, Socrates came to accept this as true because he:
[A] knew that he knew nothing.
[B] didn’t know that he knew what he knew.
[C] knew what he knew.
[D] accepted that with great wisdom comes great fame.

(03.6) In *Crito*, Socrates argues that we should obey the laws of society because they are established by God.
[A] True
[B] False
(03.7) Socrates was just like all the other Sophists in Athens.
[A] True
[B] False

(03.8) Socrates believed that all learning is our recollection of knowledge learned in the Realm of the Forms.
[A] True
[B] False

(03.9) Socrates believed that the body is a prison for the soul.
[A] True
[B] False

(03.10) Socrates claims that he doesn’t know how things like virtue are acquired because:
[A] he has no interest in those kinds of things.
[B] he doesn’t know what virtue is.
[C] he is only the gadfly of Athens.
[D] he died before he could discover the answer.
Philosophy Quiz 04 – The Philosophy of Plato

Grade: _______ / 12

(04.1) What is the study of the nature of ultimate reality?
[A] Epistemology
[B] Ethics
[C] Aesthetics
[D] Metaphysics
[E] Logic

(04.2) Why do we need universals?
[A] For objects of intellect (particular dog ⇔ universal dog)
[B] To provide subject matter for the sciences
[C] To ground prediction (i.e., you can say “This apple is red.”)
[D] All of the above

(04.3) In the myth of the cave, Plato describes:
[A] a group of tourists getting lost in the cave of ignorance.
[B] a group of people existing in ignorance at the bottom of a cave.
[C] a group of thinking philosophers hiding in a cave.
[D] a group of sun worshipers living in a cave.

(04.4) For Plato, the process whereby an individual leaves his or her state of ignorance will occur by:
[A] a group of people thinking at the bottom of a cave.
[B] leaving the cave and being forced into the light of reality.
[C] a group of thinking philosophers hiding in a cave.
[D] connecting to the free wi-fi and using the Internet.

(04.5) According to the myth of the cave, the process of getting out of the cave is:
[A] fun.
[B] disorienting, painful, frightening, and gradual.
[C] an act that curious humans can do quite naturally.
[D] just like being born and dying at the same time.

(04.6) *The Republic* shows Socrates at his trial, defending his life-long commitment to philosophy.
[A] True
[B] False
(04.7) In the analogy of the cave, what do the shadows represent?

[A] Truth
[B] Justice
[C] Things of this world
[D] The Forms
[E] Error

(04.8) According to Plato’s “Divide Line,” the second level down from the top includes:

[A] images of things.
[B] mathematical truths.
[C] physical things.
[D] material, changing Forms.

(04.9) Which level of reality described by “the Divide Line” would correspond to the shadows watched by the prisoners in the cave?

[A] The level of mathematical rules
[B] The level of all appearances
[C] The level of truths about triangles and horses
[D] The level of the Forms

(04.10) According to Plato’s “Divide Line,” the third level down from the top includes:

[A] the eternal, unchanging Forms.
[B] the physical things of the world.
[C] images of things in this world.
[D] mathematical truths.

(04.11) In *The Republic*, Plato suggests that the world of particular, changing things are:

[A] the only world of which we could have complete knowledge.
[B] divine, since it was created by God.
[C] only a reflection of the world on the universal, unchanging Forms.
[D] ultimately composed of earth, air, fire, and water.

(04.12) In the cave allegory, after the released prisoner goes up out of the cave and looks up at the heavens, what does the sun correspond to?

[A] A really big and really hot physical object
[B] The light of the fire that generates shadows on the cave walls
[C] The Form of the Good
[D] The Pythagorean theorem
Philosophy Quiz 05 – The System of Aristotle

Grade: _______ / 13

(05.1) Which famous king did Aristotle teach?
[A] Lyceus
[B] Plato
[C] Alexander
[D] Thales

(05.2) According to Aristotle, what is a substance of the soul?
[A] Potentiality
[B] Thoughts
[C] Dreams
[D] Personality

(05.3) What does the soul give a person?
[A] Living form
[B] Personality
[C] Actuality
[D] Thought

(05.4) What is the nested hierarchy of souls?
[A] Reproduction, thought, knowledge
[B] Reproduction, perception, thought
[C] Potentiality, perception, thought
[D] Potentiality, perception, knowledge

(05.5) What did Aristotle say about the soul when the body dies?
[A] It dies with it.
[B] It leaves the body before the body dies.
[C] The soul is immortal.
[D] The soul is used up and gives its energy to the universe.

(05.6) What is the lowest level of the soul?
[A] Plants
[B] Humans
[C] Children
[D] Animals
[E] Microorganisms
[F] Dirt
(05.7)  What is the highest level of the soul?
[A] Plants
[B] Humans
[C] Children
[D] Animals
[E] Microorganisms
[F] Dirt

(05.8)  Who came up with the story of the prisoners in the cave and made major contributions to rationalism?
[A] Anaximander
[B] Socrates
[C] Plato
[D] Aristotle

(05.9)  Which of these souls did Aristotle think was unique to humans?
[A] Motive
[B] Rational
[C] Emotional
[D] Vegetative

(05.10) Which of these is NOT one of the characteristics of the Unmoved Mover?
[A] Eternality
[B] Immutability (cannot change)
[C] Love
[D] Pure act

(05.11) What are the three kinds of souls according to Aristotle?
[A] Vegetative, motive, rational
[B] Vegetative, animal, contemplative
[C] Vegetative, contemplative, rational

(05.12) The ability to become something else is what?
[A] Substance
[B] Potentiality
[C] Essence
[D] Form
The nature of a thing is what Aristotle called the what?

[A] Substance  
[B] Accident  
[C] Essence  
[D] Potential
(06.1) Epicurus said that if we remove the fear of ______ we can finally find happiness.
[A] God
[B] death
[C] mathematics
[D] life

(06.2) According to Epicurus, which is NOT an inferior pleasure?
[A] Food
[B] Drink
[C] Sex
[D] Friendship

(06.3) Pyrrho believed that:
[A] everything is knowable.
[B] nothing can be known.
[C] only sensed things can be known.
[D] only the mind is knowable.

(06.4) Who said that the study of philosophy is necessary for educated Christians?
[A] Jesus of Nazareth
[B] Pyrrho
[C] Zeno
[D] Clement of Alexandria

(06.5) Who tried to introduce Plato to Christianity (but the Christians didn’t like it)?
[A] Clement of Alexandria
[B] Jesus of Nazareth
[C] Origen
[D] Plotinus
(07.1) Augustine referred to evil as:
[A] fun.
[B] being as bright as the sun.
[C] the absence of goodness.
[D] force necessary for transition.

(07.2) What did the first major criticism of the Augustinian theodicy essentially involve?
[A] The idea that hell is necessary if God is truly just
[B] The idea that – contrary to what Augustine said – sin (or moral evil) could not have existed before the punishment of sin
[C] The idea that God (the Creator) must ultimately be responsible for the sins of his creation
[D] The idea that – contrary to what Augustine maintained – the punishment of sin could not have existed before sin

(07.3) During this period, the Church was mainly concerned with what?
[A] Giving more power to Jesus
[B] Making the Christian doctrine more precise
[C] Testing the spirituality of new Christians
[D] Making more copies of the Bible and spreading them

(07.4) According to St. Augustine, time is:
[A] unknowable.
[B] only in the present.
[C] only in the mind.
[D] always on our side.

(07.5) What is Boethius most famous for?
[A] Burning down Constantinople
[B] Refusing to believe in either good or evil
[C] Translating Aristotle and making his writing available in the West
[D] Being one of the few who received God’s grace
(08.1) What is the opposite of realism?
[A] Conceptualism
[B] Nominalism
[C] Capitalism
[D] Socialism

(08.2) What is an ontological argument?
[A] An argument within metaphysics focused primarily upon the nature of being
[B] An argument explaining that objects in motion will stay in motion
[C] An argument that appears to prove God’s existence upon our idea of God

(08.3) According to Saint Anselm, God’s existence could be proven by starting with:
[A] the Bible
[B] the miracle of Jesus
[C] the idea of God

(08.4) According to the ontological proof of God’s existence:
[A] God is the greatest conceivable or the most perfect being.
[B] evil is necessary for free will to exist.
[C] God is the Unmoved Mover.

(08.5) Which of these describes Anselm’s position on the relation of faith and reason?
[A] Understanding seeks faith
[B] Faith instead of understanding
[C] Faith seeks understanding
[D] Understanding instead of faith

(08.6) Anselm defined God as:
[A] that than which no greater can be unrealized.
[B] that than which no lesser can be conceived.
[C] that than which no greater can be conceived.
[D] that than which no lesser can be unrealized.
Avicenna did NOT master which area?
[A] Logic
[B] Medicine
[C] Physics
[D] Music

Why did Avicenna say God exists?
[A] God has nature.
[B] God has essence.
[C] God has a body.
[D] God has a mind.

Anselm said forgiveness of sin can only come from someone who is both:
[A] human and divine.
[B] physical and mental.
[C] logical and spiritual.
[D] rational and reasonable.

Abelard shocked his contemporaries because he said what?
[A] “Do unto others as they would do unto you.”
[B] “It is not what is done, but with what mind it is done.”
[C] “Being human is not a sin unless you think it is.”
[D] “Wherever you go, there you are.”

Who wrote the encyclopedic work of Aristotle?
[A] Avicenna
[B] Averroes
[C] Anslem
[D] Abelard

Maimonides said that we can explain God only by doing what?
[A] By being very clear with our language.
[B] By being systematic with God’s attributes.
[C] By explaining how God first came into being.
[D] By explaining what God is not.
Philosophy Quiz 09 – Philosophy in the 13th Century

Grade: _______ / 8

(09.1) Both Aristotle and St. Thomas Aquinas believed that:
[A] the concept of universal ideas exists only in the mind, but is abstracted from sensible real things.
[B] nominalism is the best way to explain the universe.
[C] universal ideas exist in the mind, distinct from sense images, but they do not correspond to any objective common element existing outside the mind.

(09.2) For St. Thomas Aquinas, God was:
[A] a complete mystery.
[B] an uncaused cause.
[C] an object of intuition.
[D] a creation of the mind.

(09.3) According to Aquinas, God’s essence is what?
[A] Existence
[B] Love
[C] Honor
[D] Justice

(09.4) According to the traditional Christian view, as supported by Aquinas, it is an essential aspect of human nature to:
[A] want to make money.
[B] want to know God.
[C] want to be different from other people.
[D] want to be a Christian.

(09.5) For Bonaventure, which is important?
[A] Light
[B] Dark
[C] Day
[D] Night

(09.6) Aquinas’ first contribution to philosophy was to:
[A] show how Plato’s Forms don’t fit well with Christianity.
[B] increase the number of philosophers doing philosophy in the church.
[C] change Aristotle’s Unmoved Mover into a Moved Mover.
[D] make Aristotle known to and accepted by his Christian contemporaries.
(09.7) Aquinas thought that:
[A] faith is as unshakable as knowledge.
[B] faith is higher than reason.
[C] knowledge is the source of faith.
[D] faith is the source of knowledge.

(09.8) For Aquinas, what is higher than reason or faith?
[A] Revolution
[B] Revelation
[C] Knowledge
[D] Logic
Philosophy Quiz 10 – Oxford Philosophers

Grade: _______ / 5

(10.1) On almost every major point, Duns Scotus _______ Aquinas.
[A] took the complete opposite opinion of
[B] agreed completely with
[C] took offense with
[D] copied

(10.2) Ockham believed that God can give us:
[A] the body of Jesus.
[B] the faith to believe in God.
[C] intuitive knowledge of things that do not exist.
[D] a common nature with other things in nature.

(10.3) What is “Ockham’s Razor”?
[A] The best shaving kit in the world
[B] A way to understand the mind of God
[C] A method of political rule
[D] The means to simply come to a conclusion

(10.4) Wycliff’s realism means:
[A] we can see real things regardless of their name.
[B] we only name real things.
[C] we cannot understand the names of things.
[D] we constantly misunderstand the names of things.

(10.5) Wycliff died in disgrace because:
[A] he did not believe that God exists.
[B] he did not believe in transubstantiation.
[C] he did not agree with Ockham and his Razor.
[D] he did not agree that things have names.
Philosophy Quiz 11 – Renaissance Philosophy

Grade: _______ / 8

(11.1) Freedom is necessary in order for humans to have moral responsibility.
[A] True
[B] False

(11.2) Valla said that if man has no free will, it is because of:
[A] divine will rather than divine foreknowledge.
[B] divine foreknowledge rather than divine will.
[C] divine logic rather than divine faith.
[D] divine faith rather than divine logic.

(11.3) Rivo accepted Aristotle’s third:
[A] valued faith.
[B] valued love.
[C] false value.
[D] truth value.

(11.4) In Machiavelli’s “The Prince”, the constant theme is:
[A] a prince should be as lazy as possible.
[B] a prince should be as hard working as possible.
[C] a prince should appear, rather than be, virtuous.
[D] a prince should be, rather than appear, virtuous.

(11.5) Thomas More wrote “Utopia”, which is similar to:
[A] Plato’s “Republic”.
[B] Socrates’ “Unexamined Life”.
[C] Aristotle’s “Categories”.
[D] Ockham’s “Razor”.

(11.6) Montaigne was skeptical of the humanistic and scientific advances of his time. Thus, he believed:
[A] the Age of Exploration was ahead of its time.
[B] Europeans must become savages like those in the New World.
[C] the waking life was not worth living.
[D] only grace and faith can show the way to truth.
(11.7) Bruno was correct about much of the cosmos. His failing was:
[A] he spent no time doing experiments.
[B] he left too much to chance.
[C] he agreed with the views of the church.
[D] he lectured outside of his hometown.

(11.8) Bacon divided philosophy into three sections:
[A] historical, poetic, and divine philosophy.
[B] philosophical, inspirational, and gradual philosophy.
[C] natural, eternal, and spiritual philosophy.
[D] human, natural, and divine philosophy.