

Quiz #3

Instructions

- Answer as many questions as you are able to.
- Please write your answers *clearly* in the blanks provided. Do the best you can to complete your answers within the space given.
- **Please explain short answers in your own words!**

The maximum score is 60 points.

- Fill-in-the-blank and matching questions are worth 1 point each.
- Short-answer questions are 2 points each.

1. Fascinatingly, Milgram’s experiment demonstrated that the mere _____ that someone has authority over them can significantly impact their behavior.

2. Someone who doubts that Milgram’s experiment can actually tell us anything about how people behave in real life situations might object that the experiment doesn’t have _____.

3. Philosopher Hannah Arendt coined the phrase ‘_____’ to describe the upsetting idea that extremely immoral acts can be committed by totally ordinary people, and not just by monstrous, sadistic individuals.

4. Describe (in your own words!) one of the psychological strategies that people adopt to cope with the conflict they feel when an authority commands them to act immorally.

5. A _____ is a situation where we are stuck between two alternatives, both of which have undesirable consequences.

In the debate about “whether one should obey when commands conflict with conscience” (Milgram, 2),

6A. _____ philosophers say that the individual should act according to their moral judgments, even when their judgments conflict with the authority’s command,

6B. ...whereas _____ philosophers say that the individual should obey the authority even if it means violating their moral convictions.

6C. Why did Milgram think that a laboratory experiment could reveal more about this issue than abstract theorizing about it?

7A. _____ is a view of human behavior according to which the way a person acts has little to do with their moral character, but rather depends on the circumstances in which they find themselves.

7B. Another way to look at this view of human behavior is to say that our actions are subject to _____ determinism, once again challenging the commonplace idea that we act according to our own free will.

For 8A-8F,

- Write D if the claim is *descriptive*,
- and write N if the claim is *normative*.

- 8A. ____ Philosophy courses should be required in every college curriculum.
- 8B. ____ Philosophy encompasses a wide array of topics.
- 8C. ____ Reading, writing, and discussing philosophical views helps to improve one's critical thinking skills.
- 8D. ____ Each student ought to complete their 8 required discussion posts if they want to maximize their grade in the course.
- 8E. ____ It would be best for everyone in the class if every student participated in discussions and shared their ideas and perspectives.
- 8F. ____ It is fascinating to consider how many different philosophical views there are about commonplace ideas like free will and knowledge.

9. According to Hobbes, the three attributes of human nature that cause people to fight one another in the state of nature" are _____, _____, and _____.

10. Hobbes' definition of _____ is "the not-performance of covenant", to break one's agreements with other people.

11. Why does Hobbes believe that "nothing can be unjust" in the state of nature?

12A-F are all claims about the *state of nature*.

- write 'H' if it matches *Hobbes' view*,
- 'R' if it matches *Rousseau's view*,
- and 'B' if it fits into both author's views.

- 12A. ____ People aren't driven to compete with one another, because there were plenty of resources for everybody to share.
- 12B. ____ Without a common power, it is a war of every man against every other.
- 12C. ____ All human beings are created equal.
- 12D. ____ Life is nasty, brutish, and short.
- 12E. ____ Individuals had little need to interest with one another, let alone fight one another.
- 12F. ____ People demonstrated 'social virtues' like mercy, generosity, and friendship toward one another.

12B. Why does Rousseau think that human beings did understand injustice in the state of nature?

13. What was Rousseau's major objection to Hobbes' claims about what humans were like in the state of nature?

14. Rousseau thought that two features unique to human nature, _____ and _____, motivated people to leave the state of nature to form civilizations.

15. Rousseau objected to Aristotle's idea of _____, asserting that everyone is born equal, and no one is inherently suited for subjection to the rule of others.

16. According to Rousseau, the establishment of _____ was a particularly strong catalyst for social inequality and conflict between human beings.

17. Rousseau believes the best era for humans was the _____, and that it's been all downhill for us from there.

18. The _____ for a philosophical issue is an overview of the claims and counterclaims made by thinkers on two sides of a debate.

19. For what purpose do people elect leaders, according to Rousseau's "fundamental maxim of all political right"?

20. _____ is another word for a rule, law, or precept.

21. Rousseau thinks _____ is 'illegitimate by nature', because subjecting ourselves to it means acting against what reason tells us is in our best interest.

22. In contrast to both Hobbes and Rousseau, Sartre asserts that there is no such thing as _____.

23A. Sartre defends his philosophy of _____ against a number of objections and misconceptions,

23B. ...and demonstrates how it is really a _____, encouraging humans to use their lives to effect positive improvements in the world.

24. According to Sartre, what do many people believe human beings have in common with artifacts, like a paper-knife?

25. Sartre's phrase

_____ expresses the idea that human beings cannot be defined, because they determine themselves through their actions.

26A. The one thing that all human beings have in common, according to Sartre, is the condition of having our own individual perspective and sense of oneself, also known as _____,

26B. ...but our individual sense of self also makes us aware of our _____: the fact that we can relate to all other human beings on the basis of this shared condition.

27A. Sartre insists that each individual is not only _____ for shaping themselves, but moreover, shaping all of humankind through one's actions,

27B. ...which can lead us to feel deep _____, or anxiety, about making the right kind of choices;

27C. ...moreover, some people choose to act in _____, avoiding acting or pretending like their actions don't matter, rather than to feel this difficult emotion.

28A. Sartre agreed with Nietzsche that morality does not depend upon the existence of _____;

28B. ...rather, moral values exist, and are _____, meaning that they arise as a consequence of our actions, instead of existing independent from human activity.

29. What does one call a form of argument in which one draws parallels between the topic one is arguing about, and another one about which it is easy to draw unanimous conclusions?

30. Sartre insists that we should not adopt the attitude that it is useless to act upon the world because we have no way of knowing whether our choices will have a permanent or long-term impact, called _____.

31. Sartre's phrase _____ expresses the complicated condition of humankind, where one is forced to choose how to live, even though one did not choose to be alive in the first place.

- END OF QUIZ -