

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## Answer Key: Shatter the Myth: A 6th Grade Ancient Greek Philosophy Quiz

Students analyze Stoic resilience, Epicurean logic, and Cynic social critiques to evaluate how hidden moral frameworks shaped early European thought.

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**1. Zeno of Citium founded Stoicism, teaching that we should ignore things we cannot control to find inner peace. If a 6th grader loses a soccer game despite playing their best, what would a Stoic advise?**

**Answer:** B) Remain calm and focus on your own effort rather than the final score.

Stoicism emphasizes internal control (virtue and effort) over external outcomes (winning or losing), promoting emotional stability in the face of hardship.

**2. The philosopher Epicurus believed that the main goal of life should be to eat as much luxury food as possible, regardless of the health consequences.**

**Answer:** B) False

While often misunderstood as seeking pure indulgence, Epicurus actually taught 'ataraxia' (tranquility) through simple pleasures and the avoidance of pain or over-indulgence.

**3. Diogenes the Cynic famously lived in a large ceramic jar/tub to prove that humans should reject social status and live according to \_\_\_\_.**

**Answer:** C) Nature

Cynics like Diogenes believed that most societal rules were artificial and that living a simple, natural life was the only way to be truly free.

**4. Pythagoras is famous for math, but he also led a philosophical community with strict rules. Which of these was a surprising belief held by the Pythagoreans?**

**Answer:** B) They refused to eat beans because they believed they contained souls.

Pythagoreans believed in the transmigration of souls (reincarnation) and had many unique dietary taboos, including a famous aversion to fava beans.

**5. Heraclitus famously stated that 'No man ever steps in the same \_\_\_\_ twice,' highlighting his philosophy that the universe is in a constant state of change.**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Answer:** B) River

Heraclitus used the river metaphor to explain that because the water is always moving, the river is never functionally the same from one moment to the next.

**6. Skepticism, championed by Pyrrho of Elis, suggests that because our senses can be deceived, we should avoid making final judgements about the truth.**

**Answer:** A) True

Skeptics argued that since we can never be 100% certain of our perceptions, the best way to find peace is to suspend judgment.

**7. Anaximander was an early philosopher who proposed that the world began from something he called the 'Apeiron.' What does this term mean?**

**Answer:** C) The boundless or infinite

Anaximander moved away from using physical elements like water or fire as the 'first cause,' suggesting instead an abstract, infinite source for all things.

**8. While many Greeks focused on many gods, Xenophanes criticized people for creating gods in their own image, suggesting that the truth of the \_\_\_\_ was much more abstract.**

**Answer:** C) Divine

Xenophanes noted that humans tend to make gods that look like themselves, arguing for a more unified and non-human understanding of divinity.

**9. The Sophists were teachers who focused on 'arete' (excellence) and were mostly famous for teaching people how to win any argument, regardless of the truth.**

**Answer:** A) True

Sophists prioritized rhetoric (the art of persuasion), which often led to conflicts with other philosophers who believed in seeking an objective truth.

**10. If you are following the philosophy of the 'Golden Mean' (often linked to Hellenistic virtue), how should you react if you see someone being bullied?**

**Answer:** C) Courage: Stand up for the victim in a firm but controlled way.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

The Golden Mean identifies virtue as the balance between two extremes; courage is the healthy middle ground between being a coward and being reckless.