

Nail Neoplatonism: Notorious Numenius to Nous for College

Scholars dissect Plotinus's Enneads and Proclus's commentaries to synthesize the metaphysical bridge between Hellenistic thought and the emanations of the One.

1. In the metaphysical system of Plotinus, the concept of 'Emanation' suggests that the 'Nous' and 'Psyche' are not created ex nihilo but are overflows of the 'One'. How does this specifically challenge the traditional Greek dualism of Form and Matter?

- A. It posits that matter is a positive, creative force equal to the One.
- B. It suggests all reality is a continuous, hierachal descent from a single source, rendering matter as the privation of light.
- C. It reinforces the Aristotelian idea that the Prime Mover is unaware of the physical world.
- D. It argues that the Demiurge intentionally crafted the world to be identical to the One.

2. In 'The Enneads', Plotinus argues that the human soul must undergo a process of purification to return to its source. Complete the following statement: To achieve this mystical union, the philosopher must move beyond discursive reason to reach a state of _____.

- A. Empirical validation
- B. Dialectical materialism
- C. Intellectual Henosis
- D. Socratic Aporia

3. True or False: In Proclus's 'Elements of Theology', he introduces the principle that 'every cause is both present in its effects and remains distinct from them' to explain the stability of the divine hierarchy.

- A. True
- B. False

4. Porphyry's 'Isagoge' is historically significant primarily because of how it transformed the study of which earlier philosopher?

- A. Epicurus's views on atomism and pleasure.
- B. Aristotle's 'Categories' and the nature of universals.
- C. Heraclitus's doctrine of universal flux.
- D. Zeno of Elea's paradoxes regarding motion.

5. The Later Neoplatonist Iamblichus shifted the focus of philosophy toward _____, the practice of ritual acts intended to invoke the presence of the gods or achieve union with the divine, differing from Plotinus's purely intellectual approach.

- A. Theurgy
- B. Stoicism
- C. Hedonism
- D. Sophistry

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6. True or False: Hypatia of Alexandria, a prominent female Neoplatonist, focused her teachings strictly on non-mathematical, poetic interpretations of the Homeric epics.

- A. True
- B. False

7. Considering the Neoplatonist view of 'The One', why is it considered 'ineffable' (un-speakable)?

- A. Because it is so complex that it requires a specialized vocabulary only known to initiates.
- B. Because any description (like 'The One is good') applies a predicate, which implies a division or duality that the One transcends.
- C. Because it was a political secret kept from the uneducated masses of the Roman Empire.
- D. Because the Greek gods forbade the naming of the ultimate reality under penalty of death.

8. Evaluate the role of 'Logoi Spermatikoi' within the Synthesis of Greek thought. This concept, while having Stoic origins, was adapted by later thinkers to explain how the _____ are disseminated throughout the material world.

- A. Atomistic particles
- B. Rational seeds/principles
- C. Political laws
- D. Sensory illusions

9. How did the Neoplatonic school in Athens under Proclus attempt to resolve the contradictions between Plato and Aristotle?

- A. By rejecting Aristotle entirely as a materialist heretic.
- B. By viewing Aristotle's logic and physics as a necessary 'minor mystery' or preparation for Plato's higher 'divine mysteries'.
- C. By arguing that Plato was a student of the Stoics, not an original thinker.
- D. By physical destruction of Aristotle's surviving manuscripts in the 5th century.

10. True or False: The closing of the Academy in Athens by Emperor Justinian in 529 AD marked the final extinction of Neoplatonic influence on Western and Middle Eastern thought.

- A. True
- B. False