

Name: _____ Date: _____

Conquer the Giants: 11th Grade Ancient Philosophy Challenge

Synthesize the metaphysical and ethical frameworks of Hellenic thought through complex scenarios and rigorous dialectic analysis.

1. In the context of Pre-Socratic thought, how does Heraclitus's concept of 'Panta Rhei' (everything flows) fundamentally conflict with the Eleatic school's view of Parmenides?

- A. Heraclitus argued for constant change, while Parmenides insisted that true Being is static and unchanging.
- B. Heraclitus believed in water as the primary substance, while Parmenides favored the 'apeiron'.
- C. Heraclitus rejected the use of logic, whereas Parmenides relied exclusively on empirical observation.
- D. Heraclitus proposed a vacuum-sealed universe, whereas Parmenides argued for a multi-versal expansion.

2. Unlike the absolute idealism of his teacher, the Cynic philosopher _____ purposefully lived in a storage jar and rejected social conventions to demonstrate that virtue is practiced through action, not abstract theory.

- A. Epicurus
- B. Diogenes of Sinope
- C. Zeno of Citium
- D. Pyrrho

3. The Stoic philosopher Epictetus argued that an individual's 'prohairesis' (moral character) is the only thing truly within their control, rendering external events indifferent.

- A. True
- B. False

4. In her refusal to accept the separation of the physical and divine, the Neoplatonist Hypatia of Alexandria synthesized mathematics and philosophy to argue that:

- A. Matter is essentially evil and must be discarded for spiritual growth.
- B. The geometric laws of the universe are the visible manifestations of the One.
- C. Only through voting in a democracy can a citizen achieve enlightenment.
- D. The gods are merely metaphors for seasonal agricultural cycles.

5. Epicurus's school of thought, often misunderstood as pursuit of luxury, actually defined 'ataraxia' as the _____.

- A. Accumulation of political power
- B. Freedom from fear and bodily pain
- C. Strict adherence to government laws
- D. Active participation in military conquest

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6. Anaximander's concept of the 'Apeiron' was a significant step in metaphysical evolution because it suggested that:

- A. The universe is made entirely of a single observable element like fire.
- B. Reality is based on a series of infinite, identical atoms.
- C. The source of all things must be an undefined, boundless substance unlike any specific element.
- D. Human perception is the only thing that creates existence.

7. The Sophist Protagoras famously claimed 'Man is the measure of all things,' which served as a foundational defense for moral absolutism.

- A. True
- B. False

8. Which ancient school of thought would most likely advise a student to remain indifferent to the outcome of a college application, focusing only on the effort put into the essay?

- A. Hedonism
- B. Stoicism
- C. Sophism
- D. Pythagoreanism

9. In his 'Organon,' _____ established the rules of the syllogism, a form of deductive reasoning that remains the basis of formal logic today.

- A. Democritus
- B. Aristotle
- C. Epicurus
- D. Xenophanes

10. Thucydides, while a historian, applied philosophical realism to international relations in the 'Melian Dialogue' by arguing that:

- A. Justice only exists between equals in power; otherwise, the strong do what they can.
- B. Moral laws are naturally written in the stars and guide all nations.
- C. Democracy is always the most efficient way to run a military.
- D. The gods will always intervene to protect the righteous, regardless of strength.