

Name: _____

Date: _____

Answer Key: Stoicism vs. Epicureanism: 10th Grade Ethics Synthesis Quiz

Sophomores evaluate competing Hellenistic theories on the nature of pain, pleasure, and the 'Logos' through rigorous ethical analysis.

1. In the context of Stoic cosmology, which concept represents the rational principle or 'divine reason' that governs the universe?

Answer: B) Logos

The Logos is the Stoic term for the universal reason that mandates the natural laws of the cosmos, which humans must align with to achieve virtue.

2. Epicurus taught that the highest state of human happiness is _____, defined as a state of freedom from emotional disturbance and anxiety.

Answer: C) Ataraxia

Ataraxia is the Epicurean goal of mental tranquility and the absence of pain, achieved by removing irrational fears and excessive desires.

3. Stoicism argues that external circumstances, such as wealth or health, are 'indifferents' and do not affect one's ability to live a virtuous life.

Answer: A) True

For Stoics, virtue is the only true good; external factors are beyond our control (indifferents) and have no bearing on moral character.

4. Which Pre-Socratic philosopher famously proposed that 'all is flux' (Panta Rhei), suggesting that change is the fundamental essence of the universe?

Answer: C) Heraclitus

Heraclitus is known for his doctrine of change and the unity of opposites, illustrating that stability is an illusion.

5. Epicureanism promotes a lifestyle of wild over-indulgence and physical excess in order to maximize sensory pleasure.

Answer: B) False

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Contrary to modern misinterpretations, Epicurus advocated for modest living and the avoidance of excess, as over-indulgence often leads to future pain.

6. The philosopher _____ is often associated with the 'Enchiridion,' a manual on how to maintain inner peace by distinguishing between what we control and what we do not.

Answer: B) Epictetus

Epictetus, a former slave turned philosopher, wrote the Enchiridion to provide practical Stoic advice on psychological resilience.

7. Which philosophical school practiced the 'epoché' (suspension of judgment) to achieve mental peace by realizing that certain knowledge is unattainable?

Answer: A) Pyrrhonism (Skepticism)

Skeptics like Pyrrho argued that since we cannot know the true nature of things, suspending judgment leads to freedom from worry.

8. Diogenes of Sinope was the most famous proponent of _____, a school that rejected social conventions in favor of living in accordance with nature.

Answer: B) Cynicism

Cynicism emphasized self-sufficiency and the rejection of luxury, fame, and artificial social status.

9. For the Stoics, the primary goal of life is to achieve 'Apatheia,' which translates to a total lack of all human emotion, including love and joy.

Answer: B) False

Apatheia means freedom from 'pathos' (unhealthy passions/disturbances), not a lack of all feeling. Stoics still valued 'good feelings' like joy and well-wishing.

10. Which Roman emperor and Stoic philosopher wrote 'Meditations' as a series of personal reflections on duty, mortality, and the transience of life?

Answer: C) Marcus Aurelius

Marcus Aurelius is considered one of the 'Five Good Emperors' and a key Stoic whose private journals became one of the world's most famous philosophical texts.