

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

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

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.