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Answer Key: The Stoic Compass vs. Epicurean Sails: 11th Grade Philosophy Quiz

Scholars synthesize divergent paths to the good life through 10 rigorous evaluations of Hellenistic ethics, Cynic provocation, and Pre-Socratic cosmology.

1. In herrings of logical rigor, Zeno of Elea proposed 'Achilles and the Tortoise.' Which metaphysical assumption regarding the nature of space and time does this paradox primarily challenge?

Answer: A) Infinite divisibility of a continuum

Zeno's paradoxes are designed to show that if space is infinitely divisible, motion becomes logically impossible, supporting Parmenides' view that reality is static.

2. Diogenes of Sinope, the most famous of the Cynics, argued that true virtue is found in living according to _____, rejecting social conventions and material luxury.

Answer: B) Nature

Cynicism emphasized 'physis' (nature) over 'nomos' (custom), advocating for a self-sufficient life free from the artificial requirements of society.

3. Epicurus taught that 'Ataraxia' — the peak of human happiness — is achieved primarily through the pursuit of intense, sensory-driven physical pleasures.

Answer: B) False

Contrary to modern misinterpretations, Epicurus defined pleasure as the absence of pain (aponia) and mental turmoil (ataraxia), favoring simple living over hedonistic excess.

4. Evaluate the Heraclitean concept of 'Panta Rhei' (everything flows). How does his theory of the 'Unity of Opposites' function as a governing principle of reality?

Answer: B) It posits that conflict and tension between forces create a stable harmony

Heraclitus believed that the world is a constant process of change held together by a 'Logos' where opposing forces (like a bow and string) exist in a necessary tension.

5. The Stoic philosopher Epictetus emphasized the 'Dichotomy of Control,' suggesting that we should only concern ourselves with our own _____.

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Answer: C) Prohairesis (will/intentions)

Epictetus taught that while external events are outside our power, our internal judgments and will are entirely up to us, forming the basis of moral character.

6. How did Anaximander expand upon the monism of Thales? He proposed that the 'Arche' (origin) of the universe was not a specific element like water, but rather:

Answer: A) The Apeiron (the Boundless/Indefinite)

Anaximander argued that the source of all things must be something indefinite and limitless to allow for the birth of all specific elements without being exhausted.

7. Pyrrhonist Skepticism argues that 'epoché' (suspension of judgment) is the necessary prerequisite for achieving mental tranquility.

Answer: A) True

Skeptics like Pyrrho believed that since we cannot know the true nature of things, ceasing to make dogmatic claims prevents the anxiety caused by conflicting beliefs.

8. In 'The Golden Verses,' the Pythagorean school emphasized the transmigration of souls. This belief implies a rejection of which of the following?

Answer: C) Total materialist annihilation at death

The Pythagorean doctrine of metempsychosis (reincarnation) posits that the soul is immortal and survives the body, which contradicts the materialist view that the self vanishes at death.

9. Democritus and Leucippus formulated a proto-scientific worldview by positing that the universe is comprised entirely of _____ moving through a vacuum.

Answer: B) Indivisible atoms

Atomism stated that the world is composed of 'atomos' (uncuttable units), moving in void, whose collisions and groupings create all physical objects.

10. The Pre-Socratic philosopher Empedocles proposed that two cosmic forces are responsible for the mixing and separation of the four elements. What were these forces?

Answer: B) Love and Strife

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Empedocles identified Philotes (Love) as the unifying force and Neikos (Strife) as the dividing force that governs the eternal cycle of the universe.