

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?

- A. Infinite divisibility of a continuum
- B. The existence of the void in atomic theory
- C. The teleological movement of the Prime Mover
- D. The reliability of sense perception over 'logos'

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.

- A. The Polis
- B. Nature
- C. The Academy
- D. Divine Law

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

- A. True
- B. False

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?

- A. It suggests all physical matter is composed of unchanging atoms
- B. It posits that conflict and tension between forces create a stable harmony
- C. It argues that different perspectives are equally false
- D. It claims that only the soul remains constant while the body decays

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

- A. Physical health
- B. Social reputation
- C. Prohairesis (will/intentions)
- D. Political status

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:

- A. The Apeiron (the Boundless/Indefinite)

Name: _____ Date: _____

- B. The Nous (Divine Intellect)
- C. The Ge (the Earth)
- D. The Pneuma (the Breath)

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

- A. True
- B. False

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

- A. Mathematical realism
- B. Dietary restrictions like vegetarianism
- C. Total materialist annihilation at death
- D. The existence of harmony in the cosmos

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

- A. Geometric shapes
- B. Indivisible atoms
- C. Harmonic vibrations
- D. Infinite seeds

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?

- A. Gravity and Inertia
- B. Love and Strife
- C. Chaos and Order
- D. Mind and Matter