Test Bank

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Multiple Choice Questions

Difficulty: 1 = Easy; 2 = Medium; 3 = Challenging

Choose the best possible answer for each of the following.

1.   "Independent reality" means _____.
    A. that which is true regardless of what we think about it
    B. the most fundamental facts
    C. those facts that do not depend on other facts
    D. things that we can only find out through philosophical investigation

Answer: A
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

2.   Bertrand Russell said that the nature of reality is difficult to arrive at because _____.
    A. our senses can be unreliable
    B. we do not really have sense-data
    C. we might be deceived by someone
    D. all that we directly know are our sensations

Answer: D
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

3.   George Berkeley denied the existence of matter because _____.
    A. he thought that matter is illusory
    B. he did not think our senses are reliable
    C. he thought that there is nothing non-mental
    D. he thought that people are deceived in thinking so

Answer: C
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

4.   Unlike Berkeley, Leibniz believed _____.
    A. in real physical objects
    B. in the existence of ideas
    C. that people are not deceived by sense-data
    D. in a reality independent of our minds

Answer: D
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

5.   Empiricism is the position that _____.
            A. there is an external world
            B. knowledge derives from experience
            C. ordinary people can arrive at the truth
            D. philosophy is the pursuit of knowledge

Answer: B
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

6.   Locke believed that rationalism is false because _____.
            A. there are many things that we cannot know
            B. he disbelieved in the existence of universal ideas
            C. people disagree about a great many things
            D. he believed it was always possible to show that knowledge arises from experience

Answer: C
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

7.   Leibniz believed that the mind _____.
            A. has innate knowledge
            B. has innate tendencies
            C. learns everything by experience
            D. is a blank slate at birth

Answer: B
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

8.   Locke's account of human understanding is missing _____.
            A. an account of human faculties
            B. a story about how sense-data is acquired
            C. a story about how the mind transforms experience into concepts
            D. an account of why there are universal concepts shared by all

Answer: C
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

9.   *Secondary qualities,* for Locke, are _____.
            A. powers to produce certain sensations in us
            B. qualities that we can perceive without the senses
            C. qualities that are not unique characteristics
            D. powers that do not relate to an object's identity

Answer: A
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

10. Berkeley's epistemology rested upon certainty that _____.
    A. he existed
    B. the external world exists
    C. sensory data is reliable
    D. God is creator and sustainer of the world

Answer: D
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

11. David Hume's epistemology was based on the idea that _____.
    A. we can arrive at truth only through experience
    B. sensory qualities always give us reliable information
    A. everything in the mind is either an impression or an idea
    B. we know our experiences to be truthful when they are sufficiently vivid

Answer: C
Difficulty: 2
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

12. Immanuel Kant thought that Hume was wrong to _____.
    A. focus on sensory impressions
    B. try to give an account of human knowledge
    C. try to give a foundation of metaphysics
    D. neglect the way in which our impressions are organized

Answer: D
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

13. What was Kant's relation to the rationalists and empiricists?
    A. He tried to put the two together into a new theory.
    B. He wanted to develop a better rationalism.
    C. He wanted to develop a better empiricism.
    D. He thought that both were completely wrong.

Answer: A
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

14. Alison Jaggar's main contention about the deficiency of most philosophy is that it _____.
    A. is methodologically improper
    B. totally neglects the emotions
    C. is not on subjects that most women care about
    D. does not explore issues related to the human person

Answer: B
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

15.   According to Jaggar, the neglect of emotion began with _____.
         A. the rise of Western philosophy
         B. the dominance of male philosophers
         C. the influence of psychotherapy
         D. the rise of modern science

Answer: D
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding

Essay Questions

1. What problem did Bertrand Russell point to regarding knowledge and sense-data?
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Knowledge, Understanding

2. Compare and contrast the related "idealisms" of George Berkeley and Gottfried Leibniz.
Difficulty: 2
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding, Analysis

3. What were Locke's criticisms of the rationalists? What was his theory about human knowledge?
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Knowledge, Understanding

4. Contrast the philosophical positions of rationalism and empiricism with respect to human knowledge.
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Knowledge, Understanding

5. What was Leibniz's case against Locke? Explain the main issues at variance between them.
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Knowledge, Understanding

6. Why did George Berkeley not believe in the existence of matter? What did he think existed instead?
Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Knowledge, Understanding

7. What does "*esse est percipi*" mean? Explain the role of this idea in George Berkeley's philosophy.
Difficulty: 2
Bloom's Taxonomy: Knowledge, Analysis

8. What was David Hume skeptical about, and what reasons did he give for his skepticism?
Difficulty: 2
Bloom's Taxonomy: Knowledge, Understanding

9. Explain how the notions of impressions and ideas shaped Hume's epistemology.

Difficulty: 1
Bloom's Taxonomy: Knowledge

10. What was unique about Kant's philosophy, and how did he try to synthesize the views of rationalists and empiricists together?

Difficulty: 2
Bloom's Taxonomy: Understanding, Analysis