# *Introducing Philosophy A Text with Integrated Readings 11th edition Solomon Test Bank*

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# Chapter 2 Test Bank

*Questions indicated with an asterisk also are included in the online student content or the students' self-test quiz for this chapter.*

## True/False

*1. Hume's argument is that this is not a perfect world; therefore, the God who supposedly designed it cannot be perfect either.
a. True
b. False

*2. Three major sets of "proofs" have emerged as attempts to demonstrate God's existence. They are called (1) the ontological argument, (2) the cosmological argument, and (3) the teleological argument.
a. True
b. False

*3. Hinduism does not offer a solution to the problem of evil.
a. True
b. False

*4. The scriptural emphasis on God's sense of justice and His concern for humankind belies anthropomorphic characteristics.
a. True
b. False

*5. Aquinas admitted that there was no valid argument against the claim that God and the universe existed for all eternity.
a. True
b. False

*6. In Buddhism, the problem of evil is avoided entirely because Buddhism abandons any conception of an anthropomorphic God.
a. True
b. False

*7. Friedrich Schleiermacher insisted that religion was simply a matter of intense feelings of dependence, nothing more.
a. True
b. False

*8. Tillich expanded the idea of God to represent a meaningful life.
a. True
b. False

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*9. Voltaire was a deist.
a. True
b. False

*10. Kant argued that existence was just a predicate like other predicates.
a. True
b. False

11. "The problem of evil" can be summarized by asking why there is pain, suffering, and evil in the world if God is benevolent (good) and omnipotent (meaning he has the power to create a world without pain, suffering, and evil).
a. True
b. False

12. St. Augustine believed that the only evil there is in the world is fear.
a. True
b. False

13. For St. Augustine, evil is a substance.
a. True
b. False

14. The "free will defense" (i.e., that there is evil in the world to serve as a contrast so that people would see and appreciate good) is, at best, a partial solution because not all evil is of our doing.
a. True
b. False

15. *Karma* is the doctrine that claims that the intentions behind actions matter more than the actions themselves.
a. True
b. False

16. The idea that different paths lead to the same truths was argued by the Sufi Islamic mystics.
a. True
b. False

17. Kierkegaard believed that God was knowable.
a. True
b. False

18. For Paul Tillich, God was a symbol of ultimate concern.
a. True
b. False

19. Friedrich Nietzsche accused Christianity of being a set of rationalizations for impotence.

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a. True
b. False

*20. Buddhism responds to the problem of evil with the idea of compassion.
a. True
b. False

## Answer Key: True/False, Chapter 2

1. a
2. a
3. b
4. b
5. a
6. a
7. a
8. a
9. a
10. b
11. a
12. b
13. b
14. a
15. b
16. a
17. b
18. a
19. a
20. a

## Multiple Choice

*1. _____ argued that religious truth was objective, not subjective.
a. Kierkegaard
b. Nietzsche
c. Kant
d. Wisdom
e. Paley

*2. Friedrich Nietzsche thought that Christianity was an expression of _____
a. strength
b. faith
c. resentment

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d. hope
e. philosophical hopelessness

*3. Kant argued that the belief in God was _____.
a. rationally necessary
b. demonstrable through logic
c. irrational but helpful
d. a good wager
e. pure nonsense

*4. The _____ argument demonstrates that existence is a perfection of God's.
a. epistemological
b. cosmological
c. teleological
d. illogical
e. ontological

*5. Anthropomorphism is the idea that God is a lot like _____.
a. love
b. people
c. nature
d. spirit
e. anthropology

*6. John Wisdom argued that the essential feature of religious belief is a certain _____.
a. disposition
b. emotion
c. leap of faith
d. attitude
e. transcendence

*7. Which type of people did Albert Einstein say "develop a completely false notion of the mentality of men who, surrounded by a skeptical world, have shown the way to kindred spirits scattered wide through the world for centuries"?
a. Those whose acquaintance with scientific research is derived chiefly from its practical results.
b. Those who are prejudiced.
c. Those whose acquaintance with religious doctrine has closed their minds to scientific research.
d. Those who are acquainted with scientific research and discount religious claims on the grounds that there is no way to utilize the scientific method to derive the answers,

*8. In Kant's view, which aspect was left out of the "proofs" of God that renders them unconvincing?
a. The logical aspect
b. The historical aspect
c. The epistemological aspect
d. The moral aspect

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9. Name a common response to the "fine-tuning" argument (i.e., that the fundamental constants of physics, e.g., the gravitational constant, seem finely tuned to allow for life as we know it and that this is so surprising as to suggest that an intelligent being produced it).
a. The accident hypothesis
b. The many-universes hypothesis
c. The evil genius hypothesis
d. The theory of Forms

10. _____ argued very strongly for the design argument.
a. Kant
b. Paley
c. Kierkegaard
d. James
e. Anselm

11. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam might be called _____.
a. progressive religions
b. Isaac-based religions
c. Abrahamic religions
d. polytheist religions

*12. Plato and Aristotle heavily influenced _____.
a. Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam
b. Hinduism alone
c. Judaism and Hinduism
d. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam

*13. Pascal's wager was based on _____.
a. probability and statistics
b. finite mathematics
c. game theory
d. calculus

14. On which grounds did Pascal draw his conclusion that it was better to believe in God than not to believe?
a. Ethical
b. Practical
c. Logical
d. Emotional

*15. The third "proof" of God's existence is usually called the argument from design, or _____.
a. the teleological argument
b. the cosmological argument
c. the ontological argument

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d. the analogical argument
e. the cosmogonical argument

16. According to _____, it is rational to have faith. The belief in God is a "postulate of practical reason."

a. Paley
b. Kant
c. Aquinas
d. Anselm
e. Aristotle

*17. Taken at face value, the first three versions of the cosmological argument are similar to _____ argument for the "prime mover."

a. Paley's
b. Kant's
c. Aquinas's
d. Anselm's
e. Aristotle's

*18. William Paley argued primarily from the idea of the _____, which attributes purpose to the creation of the world.

a. the teleological argument
b. the cosmological argument
c. the ontological argument
d. the analogical argument
e. the cosmogonical argument

19. Judaism, Christianity, and Islam all trace their roots to _____.

a. Hinduism
b. Buddhism
c. Abraham of the Old Testament
d. Daoism
e. Confucianism

20. _____ and Descartes each advanced a version of the ontological argument.

a. Aquinas
b. Hume
c. Kant
d. Anselm
e. Paley

*21. The argument from design, known as intelligent design, has the form of an _____.

a. inference to the best explanation
b. inference by elimination
c. inference by analogy

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d. inference from perfection
e. inference from preponderance of evidence

*22. _____ made the pragmatic argument that believing in God was "rational" insofar as it doesn't conflict with our other beliefs and it tends to make us lead better lives.
a. Kant
b. Hume
c. James
d. Pascal
e. Aristotle

23. _____ admitted that we could not know whether God exists or not. But if God exists and we believe in Him, we are entitled to an eternal reward. If He exists and we don't believe in Him, on the other hand, we are really in for it—eternal damnation. Even if he doesn't exist, we are still better off believing in God because of the qualities faith brings to life.
a. Kant
b. Hume
c. James
d. Pascal
e. Aristotle

24. When people ask questions such as, "If God is all-powerful, all-knowing, and just, then how is it possible that there is so much unearned suffering and unpunished wickedness in the world?" and "If God exists, how can the world be so full of evil?" they are asking about what is known as _____.
a. the problem of evil
b. the problem of doubt
c. the problem of Job
d. the problem of faith
e. the problem of theism

25. Hinduism offers a unique solution to _____ with the idea of karma.
a. the problem of evil
b. the problem of doubt
c. the problem of Job
d. the problem of faith
e. the problem of theism

26. Buddhism avoids _____ entirely because it abandons the conception of an anthropomorphic God.
a. the problem of evil
b. the problem of doubt
c. the problem of Job
d. the problem of faith
e. the problem of theism

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27. _____ held that the doctrines of Christianity were absurd, but that this very absurdity made the passionate faith of Christianity possible.
a. Freud
b. Aquinas
c. Anselm
d. Kierkegaard
e. Nietzsche

28. _____ insisted that religion was simply a matter of intense feelings of dependence, nothing more.
a. Freud
b. Schleiermacher
c. Marx
d. Kierkegaard
e. Nietzsche

29. _____ argued that humans invented religion to escape their intolerable social conditions. Once we see this, we should reject religion as an escape and turn instead to the correction of those conditions that made such an escape necessary.
a. Freud
b. Schleiermacher
c. Marx
d. Kierkegaard
e. Nietzsche

30. _____ reduced the grand aspirations of religion to mere illusions but, even worse, the illusions of an insecure child who had never properly grown up.
a. Freud
b. Schleiermacher
c. Marx
d. Kierkegaard
e. Nietzsche

## Answer Key: Multiple Choice, Chapter 2

1. a
2. c
3. a
4. e
5. b
6. d
7. a
8. d
9. b
10. b

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11. c
12. d
13. a
14. b
15. a
16. b
17. e
18. a
19. c
20. d
21. a
22. c
23. d
24. a
25. a
26. a
27. d
28. b
29. c
30. a

## Discussion/Essay

*1. Give Anselm's version of the ontological argument for the existence of God and Descartes's revision of that argument. Then explain Kant's attack on the argument. Do you agree with Kant that existence is not a predicate? Can you think of any other apparent predicates that are not actual predicates? If existence is a special case, why?

*2. Hume argued that if God built the universe, He wasn't a very good architect. Some theists respond that the universe was built as well as it could be and that any changes would make it only worse. Do you find this response convincing? The poet Wallace Stevens once wrote a letter to his wife claiming that "with a wishing lamp and a bucket of sand I could make a world better than this one." Do you agree with Stevens? Can you imagine a better world? What would you change?

*3. Explain how the attack on Christianity developed from Marx and Nietzsche into Freud. What does Freud mean by the word *illusion*? Are illusions always bad? Could Christianity and other forms of religion be good, helpful illusions? How would Nietzsche respond?

*4. Explain Kierkegaard's idea that "subjectivity is truth." How might one attack this position? How might Tillich respond to the attack? Is belief a matter of the will, or is belief involuntary? Argue your response with examples.

5. Why did Albert Einstein maintain that "the cosmic religious feeling is the strongest and noblest motive for scientific research"? If the immense effort needed for pioneer work in the theoretical sciences arises from deep religious conviction, as Einstein said, then why aren't all

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scientists amenable to their religious colleagues? Discuss Einstein's viewpoint and why many scientists, as well as the general population, don't seem to share it.

6. Discuss biochemist Lawrence Henderson's statement "the biologist may now rightly regard the universe in its very essence as biocentric." Do you agree with him that biological systems have very special requirements and that these requirements are met by nature, as if this "fit" cosmically evolved for the needs of living organisms? Do you agree that the fitness of the environment for life is too great to be accidental? Is the universe biocentric?

7. Analyze William James's conclusion that it would be irrational to choose agnostic rules of truth seeking. James was denying that in the absence of sufficient evidence it was wiser to remain skeptical about the existence of God. He contended that the agnostic and the believer both have viable positions. It is no more logical to risk loss of truth (by not having faith) than it is to chance error (by having faith). Argue for or against James's conviction that we all have the right to choose our own form of risk.

8. What is religion? Did humanity invent it or not? If so, for what purpose? What is distinctive about religion that sets it apart from other human endeavors? Do we, as a species, need it? Are the objects of one's religious belief subjective and therefore beyond criticism? Or is there some objective fact of the matter?

9. Discuss Kant's defense of belief in God as a matter of faith as well as a rational belief. How did he use the logical tools of reasoning toward this end? How does faith enter into the argument?

10. In what ways are Einstein and Nishitani's arguments similar? What is Nishitani's concept of objective "personal nihility"?

# Fill-in-the-Blanks Worksheet

For *Introducing Philosophy*, 11th edition, by Robert C. Solomon, Kathleen Higgins, and Clancy Martin.

## Chapter 2: Religion

1. _____ claimed that the essential feature of religious belief was a certain "attitude" that the religious person has toward his or her surroundings.

2. The credibility of _____ also has suffered from the shock of Darwin's theory of evolution.

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*3. According to Kant and others, the importance of God in Western thought is His role as the source of our _____.

4. The problem of evil and the seeming irrationality of God's actions also haunted the Russian novelist _____. His character Ivan presents us with a vivid picture of how instances of unjust evil pit reason against faith.

*5. The _____, "Song of God" (ca. 200 BCE), is the most important of the many Hindu sacred texts.

*6. To step outside ourselves, to consider the world from an impersonal perspective, called "personal nihility" by _____, is an intimate and unique activity.

7. The eccentric Danish philosopher _____ was a very influential, new, subjective Christian, often claimed as the father of both the "new" Christianity and the philosophy called existentialism.

*8. _____ said that belief in God was a matter of faith. But this was not an irrational belief. On the contrary, he insisted that the belief in God was the most rational belief of all.

9. _____ admitted that we couldn't know whether God exists or not. But if God exists and we believe in Him, we are entitled to an eternal reward. If He exists and we don't believe in Him, on the other hand, we are really in for it—eternal damnation. Even if He doesn't exist, we are still better off believing in God because of the qualities faith brings to life.

*10. _____ made the pragmatic argument that believing in God was "rational" insofar as it didn't conflict with our other beliefs and it tended to make us lead better lives.

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## Answers

1. Wisdom
2. the argument from design
3. moral laws
4. Fyodor Dostoyevsky
5. Bhagavad Gita (or Gita)
6. Nishitani
7. Søren Kierkegaard
8. Kant
9. Pascal
10. William James

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