Test Bank for Philosophy Here and Now - Powerful Ideas in Everyday Life 4th Vaughn

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Test Bank

Philosophy Here and Now, Fourth Edition

Lewis Vaughn

Chapter 2: God and Religion

Please Note: *All questions that appear with an asterisk are also featured on the Student Oxford Learning Link site.*

Multiple Choice Questions

1. According to Craig, the kalam cosmological argument establishes that the

A) God of Christianity exists.

B) universe has a cause.

C) Big Bang model is false.

D) universe is uncaused.

Answer: B

2. Craig says an actually infinite number of things

A) is possible.

B) is meaningless.

C) exists somewhere.

D) cannot exist.

Answer: D

3. Craig argues that the series of events in time cannot be actually infinite, so we know that the universe

A) is finite in the past and began to exist.

B) is infinite in the past.

C) never is uncaused.

D) exists only in the mind.

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Answer: A

4. According to Aquinas, an infinite regress of causes is

A) finite.

B) possible.

C) scientific.

D) impossible.

Answer: D

5. Aquinas says that the first efficient cause of everything is

A) the universe.

B) nature.

C) God.

D) an infinite series.

Answer: C

6. Paley says that every indication of contrivance and design that exists in the watch exists in

A) God.

B) infinity.

C) time.

D) the works of nature.

Answer: D

7. Paley maintains that the key difference between the “contrivance” of a watch and that of nature is that the latter is

A) simpler.

B) more natural.

C) older.

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D) greater and grander.

Answer: D

8. *According to Paley, we must conclude that a watch had an intelligent designer if the watch

A) runs well.

B) has a structure.

C) shows purposefulness.

D) is engraved.

Answer: C

9. Philo says the analogy that Cleanthes uses to make his case is

A) too complicated.

B) weak.

C) strong.

D) not based on a legitimate method of reasoning.

Answer: B

10. *Anselm assumes that a being that exists in reality is greater than a being that

A) exists only in the understanding.

B) is embodied.

C) is worshipped.

D) exists without flaws.

Answer: A

11. According to Rowe, Anselm believes that existence in reality is

A) not possible.

B) beyond understanding.

C) not an attribute of God.

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D) a great-making quality.

Answer: D

12. *Rowe argues that we can allow someone to define God anyway she wants, yet it will not follow from that definition that such a being

A) actually exists.

B) can be defined.

C) exists in our understanding.

D) exists in our minds.

Answer: A

13. According to Hick, a certain amount of evil in the world is

A) illusory.

B) necessary.

C) caused by a finite God.

D) contrary to divinity.

Answer: B

14. *Hick says the idea of a person who can be infallibly guaranteed always to act rightly is

A) coherent.

B) necessary.

C) biblical.

D) self-contradictory.

Answer: D

15. Hick believes that such evils as poverty, oppression, persecution, and war are

A) manifestations of human sin.

B) natural evils.

C) divine evils.

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D) unreal.

Answer: A

16. *Pascal believes that when it comes to the question of God's existence

A) reason can lead us to faith.

B) faith depends on reason.

C) reason can decide the question.

D) reason can decide nothing.

Answer: D

17. *Pascal says that if you bet that God exists, and he does in fact exist, you

A) gain a viable faith.

B) win nothing and lose everything.

C) lose because you abandon reason.

D) win infinite happiness and lose nothing.

Answer: D

18. According to James, a live option is a

A) true hypothesis.

B) forced option.

C) real possibility to someone.

D) dead hypothesis.

Answer: C

19. *James says that a genuine option is

A) true.

B) momentous but not forced.

C) live but not momentous.

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D) forced, live, and momentous.

Answer: D

20. James maintains that the desire for a certain kind of truth can

A) change nothing.

B) never help to create a fact.

C) bring about the special truth's existence.

D) have no religious significance.

Answer: C

21. *According to Kant, to say that something exists is to

A) add an additional property to it.

B) not add any additional property to it.

C) postulate a change in the thing's essence.

D) add a concept to the concept of the thing.

Answer: B

22. Kant says that “Being” is not a real

A) predicate.

B) concept.

C) idea.

D) contradiction.

Answer: A

23. *Mackie says that religious experiences are

A) generally indistinguishable from experiences with a known psychological or physical cause.

B) exactly what they seem to be.

C) due to chance.

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D) generally recognizable from sensory cues.

Answer: A

24. Rowe's story of the dying fawn in the forest is meant to show that

A) Premise 2 of his argument is true.

B) there is no God.

C) Premise 1 of his argument is false.

D) Premise 1 of his argument is true.

Answer: D

25. According to Rowe, the fact that there are instances of evil which an omnipotent, omniscient being could have prevented without thereby losing a greater good is

A) provable.

B) certain.

C) rational to believe.

D) irrational to believe.

Answer: C

26. *According to Hick, a certain amount of evil in the world is

A) illusory.

B) caused by a finite God.

C) necessary.

D) contrary to divinity.

Answer: C

27. According to Hick, the divine purpose could not be forwarded in a world that was designed as a

A) place filled with natural evil.

B) realm of moral evil.

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C) place with nature laws.

D) hedonistic paradise.

Answer: D

28. *Behe says that an irreducibly complex biological system would be a powerful challenge to

A) theism.

B) direct creation.

C) non-Darwinian evolution.

D) Darwinian evolution.

Answer: D

29. *According to Behe, the gradual accumulation of mutations

A) can evolve a biological system.

B) produces higher life forms.

C) is the way that irreducibly complex systems evolve.

D) cannot evolve a biological system.

Answer: D

30. *Some design arguments are framed as

A) deductive inferences.

B) ontological theories.

C) inferences to the best explanation.

D) inferences to complexity.

Answer: C

31. *According to Swinburne, the simplicity of a scientific theory is a matter of its having

A) a network of many laws.

B) few component laws.

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C) no laws.

D) many new objects.

Answer: B

True or False Questions

32. According to Philo, since the universe is not perfectly ordered, the existence of a deity is unlikely.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

33. *Paley says that if we found a watch and examined it closely, we would naturally infer that it had a maker—even if we had never seen a watch made.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

34. Hick asserts that it is no limitation on God's power that he cannot accomplish the logically impossible.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

35. *Paley says that the anthropic principle does not support the idea of intelligent design of the universe.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

36. Craig thinks that the cause of the universe must be an accident.

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A) True

B) False

Answer: B

37. Craig believes that the universe is the effect of a plurality of causes.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

38. Scientists and philosophers have no explanation for the existence of the universe.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

39. *If sound, Aquinas's arguments prove that the God of traditional religion (an all-knowing, all-good, all-powerful being) exists.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

40. Aquinas accepts the notion of an infinite series of causes.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

41. *Paley's argument, if cogent, proves the existence of the Christian God.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

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42. Paley's argument, if cogent, proves that the designer of the world was a single being.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

43. *Philo declares that this world is the perfect product of a perfect deity.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

44. Philo demonstrated that Anselm's argument was sound.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

45. Anselm thinks God is a being that exists in the understanding alone.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

46. Rowe says that most philosophers who have considered Anselm's argument have rejected it because they believe it tries to define something into existence.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

47. *According to Rowe, if we grant to Anselm the premise that God is a possible being, the argument is sound.

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A) True

B) False

Answer: B

48. *Rowe believes that Anselm's argument fails as a proof of the existence of God.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

49. *Hick says that it is possible to show that each item of human pain serves the divine purpose.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

50. *Hick concludes that this world is not well adapted to the purpose of soul-making.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

51. The point of Pascal's wager is to prove that God exists.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

52. *Pascal believes that belief in God is a rational act.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

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53. Pascal advises those who are unable to believe in God to reduce their passions and act as if they believed.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

54. James claims that, if the evidence for God's existence is lacking, then one must refrain from believing in God.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

55. James thinks that, in the search for truth, above all else we must avoid being in error.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

56. *Believing that God exists increases the probability that God does in fact exist.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

57. Kant declares that existence is a predicate.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

58. Rowe asserts that it is reasonable to believe that God does not exist.

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A) True

B) False

Answer: A

59. In Hick's view, because God is good and loving, the environment that he has created for human life is naturally as pleasant and comfortable as possible.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

60. *For Hick, soul-making is an essential part of a plausible theodicy.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

61. Most scientists agree with Behe.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

62. Swinburne rests his argument mostly on the criterion of fruitfulness.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

63. Swinburne argues that theism is a very complex hypothesis.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

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64. According to a 2017 survey conducted by the Pew Research Center, 1 in 10 adult Americans do not believe in any higher power or spiritual force.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

65. The share of Americans who believe in God with absolute certainty has increased in recent years.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

66. One feminist critique of western ideas about God is that portraying God as male reinforces the subordination of women.

A) True

B) False

Answer: A

67. There is no form of Buddhism that conflicts with modern science.

A) True

B) False

Answer: B

Essay Questions

68. *What are the premises and conclusion of Paley's design argument? Do you think his argument is successful? Why or why not? How might an evolutionary biologist respond to Paley's argument?

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69. Many scientists say that some events (on the quantum level, for example) are literally uncaused, and some say that the universe itself could have been uncaused. If these claims are true, how would they affect the cosmological argument? How does Craig respond to the suggestion that science shows that some events are uncaused?

70. *Is an infinite regress impossible, as Aquinas says? Can you conceive of an infinite series stretching back in time or forward to the future? Explain. Why does Aquinas think that an infinite regress is impossible? What is his argument?

71. What is Pascal's wager? Do you find his argument convincing? Why or why not? Critics have accused Pascal of committing the fallacy of false dilemma. What do they mean by this? Is their criticism valid?

72. *Can religious experience demonstrate that God exists? Why or why not? What are some criticisms of arguments based on religious experience?

73. *Offer a plausible theory for why strong belief in God has declined in recent years. (This is a new question)

74. What is Stephen Hawking's view of the connection between the laws of science and the existence or nonexistence of God? Do you agree with him? What are reasons?

75. *What are the three ways that a Buddhist can coherently respond to the charge that Buddhism conflicts with modern science? Which on seems most plausible to you? Why?

76. Why do you think that 72% of the religious “nones” believe in a higher power of some kind? Is it reasonable to believe in a higher power without being religiously affiliated? Why or why not?

77. What is the theory of intelligent design? Which is the better explanation of biological life—intelligent design or evolution? Why?

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