

Study Sheet on Romanticism and German Idealism

The *Philosophe* vs. the Romantic

1. Why did the Romantics denounce the scientific rationalism of the Enlightenment?**lan**

The Romantics denounced the scientific rationalism of the Enlightenment because they believed that scientific reasoning erodes individuality, as everyone would begin to think alike. They believed that feeling is the most essential part to life.

2. According to the Romantics, how did reason stifle the individual's creativity? How could the expression of feeling lead to a truer understanding of human nature and the world?**lan**

The Romantics believed that reason stifles the individual's creativity because it makes everyone draw similar conclusions and think in the same way, instead of displaying individualism and imagination.

3. Why did the Romantics believe that the poet rather than the scientist was best able to explore the mysteries of existence?

The romantics believed that the poet was more in touch with his emotions and that he could better understand and control his emotional unlike the scientist that could not express his emotion as well as the poet.

Nature, God and History

4. How was the Romantic idea of God different from the Enlightenment's celestial clockmaker?

The romantics believed that god and religion was an expression of human nature whereas the philosophies tried to solve religion as an clock

The Impact of the Romantic Movement

5. What dangerous political movements found their origins in the Romantics' attack on the rational traditions of the Enlightenment? Max

Fascist movements like Nazis

German Idealism

6. Explain how the German idealists understood the difference between material and spiritual reality. Which Greek philosopher inspired this dualistic understanding of reality? Max

Idealists emphasized the values of the spirit over the logic of materialism and explained the world in spiritual terms. Spirit determines the form of the physical world, therefore spiritualism is better than materialism.

Plato was the Greek philosopher (myth of the cave)

7. How did the British philosopher David Hume shake the bedrock convictions of scientific certainty? **Benson**

Hume argues that the experiences and events that occur are the only things that people can correctly perceive, and it is habit and associations that give the illusion of a cause and effect when there is no certainty of something actually happening.

Immanuel Kant

8. How did Kant redefine Locke's theory of human knowledge? **Benson**

Instead of Locke's theory of sensations determining experience, Kant proposes that the mind interprets the sensations of life to create its own sense of structure, allowing for order and cause and effect because it is based off of what the mind has created. It isn't solely learning from the moments of experience, it is actively creating its own conceived perception of the world that is not incorrect.

9. Which Greek philosopher had also argued that we are born with innate knowledge? James

Socrates and Plato both thought that we could uncover knowledge through our reason, and with that reason we could always arrive at the full truth.

10. According to Kant, how does the human mind itself impose order upon our sense experiences? How did this idea rescue science from Hume's skepticism? James

Kant said that through reason our mind can impose order on our sense experiences.

11. According to Kant, the human mind is actively involved in the creation of reality. How did this new understanding of the human mind change the course of western philosophy?

Kant's main idea was that truth precedes experience, Kant believed reality is revealed to humans through moral experience. Freedom is achieved by encountering that world. This understanding of the human mind changed the course of Western Philosophy because people were not only focused on science but also focused on moral reasoning.*

12. Why did Kant believe that science was incapable of grasping total reality?

Kant believed science deals only with the world of appearances. Science does not deal with true reality. Kant claimed a science which “grasps the world as it truly is” is impossible.”

13. How did Kant believe that God reveals his existence? How does this belief make human morality legitimate?

Kant believes God reveals his existence in the human conscience. Kant believed that the existence of God justifies the existence of moral standards.

G.W.F. Hegel

14. What was Hegel’s great philosophical goal?

Hegel’s philosophical goal is freedom.

15. Describe Hegel’s dynamic understanding of how the Spirit manifests itself in human history.

Believed that ultimate reality was characterized by change and development. Absolute spirit expresses itself in cultural life. Truth unfolds and makes itself known to the human mind in the arena of world history,- Jermaine*

16. How, according to Hegel, does history proceed through dialectics? -Colby

Hegel states that history is only possible through conflict because a thing generates its own opposite and through those two ideas a third idea is created as a balance of them both.

17. Towards what end did Hegel believe history is proceeding?

He believed that history is proceeding according to a purposeful plan. Every era has its

own spirit that differentiates it from all the others. He also believes that history is rational because all the periods are related to the ones around them. The purpose of history is to manifest the Absolute Spirit, in order to give humans knowledge about themselves and freedom.

- Andrew*