Lao-Tzu

What does Lao-Tzu mean when hey says"the tao that can be told of, is not the absolute tao?" "The name that can be given are not the absolute names. The nameless is the origin of Heaven and Earth. The named is the mother of all things."

> tao needs to be experienced, not told. we cannot name everything to give it meaning, everything already has meaning. the tao is the source of the universe, and it is nameless because the source of the universe existed before naming.

Kierkegaard

What does Kierkegaard mean by false Christianity? What does he mean by the teleological suspension of the ethical? What does he mean when he says that truth is subjectivity?	Kierkegaard believed that christians in his time did not take their belief seriously. Kierkegaard believed that having a passionate faith in the lord was a number one priority, and that reasoning came second. He believed that some christians were not putting God as the number one priority in their lives, and that they were just going through the motions of christianity. The teleological suspensionon of the ethical means that it is okay to make a decision that is considered unethical in the name of the lord. Kierkegaard believed that the truth was entirely subjective and that it did not matter what you believed, it only mattered how passionately you did believe in it.

Saint Thomas Aquinas

Name 2 of the 5 proofs of Saint Thomas Aquinas for the existence of God. What are the strengths and weaknesses of each argument?	Saint Thomas Aquinas' first argument is the argument from motion. The world must have been created by a God because something had to set the world in motion. This is not a bad argument because according to Newton's first law of physics, objects do need to be set in motion. A opponent of this could say that the big bang caused the Earth to be set in motion, or that the Earth was already in motion before the arrival of God. His second states that God is the first cause. The strength is that most people can use common sense to understand this argument, and that it is clear. The question atheists ask is "well, then who created God"?

Charles Sanders Peirce

What does Charles Sanders Peirce mean he says that "the only difference between words is how they test out in experience?" Thus our ideas of anything are our ideas of sensible effects?'	This goes back to pragmatism and how whatever choice has the most practical consequences is the best choice. If one set of words does not lead to practical results, and another set does, then you should use the second set because it is the most practical. In the second statement, he says that our ideas come what we believe is possible by taking a action. If we believe that we will become healthier by exercising, then we will do that because it has practical consequences.

Heidegger

What does Heidegger mean when he says that "we have forgotten to ask the question concerning the meaning of being, and in what way does it relate to technology?	Heidegger meant that humans have forgotten what it means to be alive. We take it for granted everyday, and we fail to notice it because we are constantly distracted by tasks. He believes that we are scared of nothingness, and that one can only be at peace when they accept nothingness. Technology comes into play here by distracting even further from other human beings, such as people constantly being on their cell phones. People are ignoring their friends and loved ones for the purpose of using technology.

Buddha

Explain the viewpoint of the Buddha of Confucius from chapter 1 of Archetypes of wisdom. What is their importance/significance and what role does detachment play in their presentation?	Buddha believed that we should lower our expectations to increase our happiness. He believed in compassion and understanding, and that there was no singular God. he believed that all things were created equal. He believed that you needed a calm and pure mind in order for wisdom to emerge. He believed that we should not attach our happiness to material objects because material objects can be taken away, along with our happiness.

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Soccio and Nietzsche

What does Soccio mean when hey says "According to Nietzsche, aesthetic vision (art or taste) is the basis of meaning (not science, not religion, not morality)? And as for Nietzsche, art is a matter of semblance , a pose, technically a matter of masks and lies?	Soccio was talking about Nietzsche's mindset about the world. Nietzsche believed that we should view the world the way a artist views his work. He believes that we have beauty inside of us and that we need to reflect it out onto the world. Nietzsche believed that beauty lies in the eye of the beholder, and that all beauty begins and ends with man. A man should praise himself the same way an artist praises his work. Semblance is the basic human element found in human existence.

Slave morality

What role does Nietzsche mean by slave morality? What role does resentment play in its's creation?	According to Nietzsche master morality is the morality slave masters held. They idolized traits such are "brave" and "audacious", and resented traits such as "meek" or "passive". Slave morality is the mindset that slaves held and it is the complete opposite of master morality. Eventually, slaves began to resent their masters so they began to hate traits such as "brave" or "audacious" and reward traits such as "meek" or "passive".

Pragmatism

What is pragmatism, and what does William James mean when he says that "our conception of reality is simply a man-made language?"	Pragmatism is the philosophical belief that whatever choice has the most practical consequences should be chosen. It is closely associated with utilitarianism (the most useful choice is the best choice). I believe William James was saying that each scientific field and each scientific theory is right when viewed from a certain perspective. The theories are similar to languages in that the theory can be expressed and interpreted differently many different ways, and the communication can still be understood.

Wittgenstein

Wittgenstein attempts to show the underlying structure of language. What is this structure for Wittgenstein? What is the difference between "saying" and "uttering"?	For WIttgenstien, there was no structure of language. He believed that words and their usage depended mostly on social factors such as where you are from. He did not believe it was necessary to analyze and break down linguistics because people can already understand each other regardless of word choice. It doesn't matter whether I "say" or "utter" words as long as the other party understands my message.

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