

Name: _____

I. Definitions (1pt each)

1. **Sub specie aeternitatis:**
2. **Absurdity:**
3. **Cosmic indifference:**
4. **Meaning from the Viewpoint of Humanity:**
5. **Transcending Achievements:**

II. Multiple Choice (2pts each)

1. According to Nagel, when is a situation absurd?
 - a) When it aligns with our expectations.
 - b) When it includes a conspicuous discrepancy between pretension or aspiration and reality.
 - c) When it is in harmony with our standards of seriousness and significance.
 - d) When it is meaningful and fulfilling.
2. According to Nagel, what makes life absurd?
 - a) The fact that we will all die.
 - b) The fact that we are small and insignificant in the vast universe.
 - c) The fact that we can view our lives from a perspective outside the particular form of our lives, from which the seriousness appears gratuitous.
 - d) The fact that we cannot find a single, overarching purpose in life.
3. What does Nagel suggest is the main condition of absurdity?
 - a) The alignment of our aspirations with reality.
 - b) The dragooning of an unconvinced transcendent consciousness into the service of an immanent, limited enterprise like a human life.
 - c) The ability to find meaning and purpose in life.
 - d) The acceptance of our limitations without question.
4. According to Nagel, why is the life of a mouse not absurd?
 - a) Because a mouse's life has a clear purpose.
 - b) Because a mouse lacks the capacity for self-consciousness and self-transcendence.
 - c) Because a mouse's life is meaningful.
 - d) Because a mouse is not concerned with the vastness of the universe.

5. What does Nagel suggest is a way to potentially reduce the feeling of absurdity?
 - a) Reading Camus
 - b) Seeking broader ultimate concerns
 - c) Refusing to take the transcendental step
 - d) Abandoning one's earthly, individual life

6. According to Trisel, what is the primary reason why the universe is indifferent to human beings?
 - a) The universe is actively malevolent.
 - b) The universe is non-sentient and incapable of caring.
 - c) The universe is too distant to be concerned with human affairs.
 - d) The universe has a limited capacity for caring and prioritizes other beings.

7. In Trisel's Euthyphro-styled argument, what does he suggest about the universe potentially caring about humanity?
 - a) It would definitely enhance the meaningfulness of human life.
 - b) It would likely not enhance the quality of our lives.
 - c) It would provide a clear and objective purpose for human existence.
 - d) It would eliminate the absurdity of human life.

8. According to Trisel, how do optimists view the "glass" (of existence)?
 - a) Half empty
 - b) Half full
 - c) Almost empty
 - d) Almost full

9. What is meant by the concept of "meaning from the viewpoint of humanity"?
 - a) Meaning is only attainable from a cosmic perspective.
 - b) Human-based perspectives are irrelevant in the search for meaning.
 - c) Meaning in human life is derived from human-based perspectives.
 - d) The universe dictates what is meaningful in human life.

10. Which of the following is NOT a reason why some people find life absurd, according to Nagel?
 - a) The vastness of the universe
 - b) The inevitability of death
 - c) The abundance of natural resources
 - d) The lack of cosmic purpose

III. Short Answer Prompts 4 prompts, choose 3; 25pts each)

1. Explain the concept of "cosmic indifference" and how it relates to the meaning of life for Trisel and Nagel.

2. Explain Nagel's argument that the feeling of absurdity arises from a conflict within ourselves.

3. Discuss Nagel's perspective on how the awareness of absurdity affects our approach to life.

4. Why does Trisel argue that the indifference of the universe is not relevant to questions of meaning for human life.