

Phil. 102: Introduction to Philosophical Inquiry

Quiz: Doctrine of the Mean

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Directions: Carefully study statements 1-10. Decide whether each statement is true or false and write in the spaces provided the word “true” or the word “false” in accordance with your decision.

1. _____ Aristotle explains practical wisdom as an ability to know the right action to take in a specific set of circumstances.
2. _____ The Greek phrase *areté*, often translated as “virtue,” means “excellence.”
3. _____ Aristotle argues that actions productive of pleasure are neither considered bad nor good actions.
4. _____ For Aristotle, the good action is determined as a mean between an action that is wholly good as excess and an action that is wholly bad as defect.
5. _____ Aristotle believes everyone should exhibit the amount of courage which is the mathematical mean between cowardliness and rashness.
6. _____ Aristotle believes that the proper mean can only be determined theoretically by the use of theoretical reason.
7. _____ For Aristotle, *à priori* reasoning is theoretical reasoning, and *à posteriori* reasoning is practical.
8. _____ According to Aristotle, the good or right action cannot be known *à posteriori* but must be learned from moral rules.
9. _____ The proper mean of an action is always between the two extremes of excess and defect of that action.
10. _____ The proper virtue of a human being, according to Aristotle, is the engagement in activity without hindrance.

NAME _____