Philosophy Quiz
The Principle of Charity

*Directions:* Choose the best responses to the following questions and circle the letter of the answer corresponding to the best answer.

1. A person invokes the principle of charity when presented with a new idea if that individual
   (a) temporarily suspends his common sense.
   (b) assumes for the present that the new idea is true.
   (c) rejects the idea only if he believes it false.
   (d) accepts the idea because it comes from an authority.

2. If you adopt the principle of charity when presented with a new idea, then the idea should only be criticized if the idea is
   (a) obviously wrong.
   (b) new or different.
   (c) so strange it is difficult to understand.
   (d) fully understood first.

3. The principle of charity is
   (a) a provisional belief (i.e., a temporary belief).
   (b) an initial presumption that a new idea might be true until it can be proved otherwise.
   (c) an initial suspension of disbelief or a toleration of ambiguity of an idea.
   (d) all of the above are true.

4. One way to be open and receptive and to free the conditioned mind to absorb something new is to use
   (a) the principle of charity as a methodological principle.
   (b) the principle of charity as a last resort.
   (c) the principle of prejudgment as an operational rule.
   (d) is to know that nothing can be known with certainty.

5. The principle of charity is a methodological principle. This statement means
   (a) an idea can be criticized after it is well understood.
   (b) an idea should be criticized after it is presented in its most persuasive form.
   (c) both a and b are true.
   (d) none of the above are true.

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