

# Quiz: The Principle of Charity

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*Directions:* Place a check mark at the end of the best answer to each of the following questions.

1. When faced with a new idea, an individual uses the principle of charity when that individual
  - (a) assumes the logical contradictions of a theory are in reality true.
  - (b) assumes any apparent contradictions have a satisfactory explanation.
  - (c) evaluates every idea within the theoretical explanation with skepticism.
  - (d) uncritically accepts the theory as true without further investigation.
2. According to the principle of charity, an individual should only criticize a newly proposed theory if
  - (a) the theory is not one that is believed by anyone.
  - (b) no one else criticizes the theory.
  - (c) the theory is not clearly expressed.
  - (d) the ideas are first clearly understood.
3. The principle of charity is invoked whenever an individual
  - (a) seeks a sympathetic understanding of new ideas.
  - (b) tries to resolve apparent contradictions of the proposed ideas.
  - (c) does not concentrate on seeking false statements.
  - (d) attempts all of the above.
4. Which of the following practices are *not* consistent with the principle of charity?
  - (a) An individual should seek to understand rather than seek to disprove a new theory.
  - (b) An individual should anticipate how the new or different ideas conflict with presently known accounts.
  - (c) An individual should simply seek to understand new or different ideas while suspending personal beliefs.
  - (d) None of the above are inconsistent with the principle of charity.
5. A refinement of the principle of charity includes
  - (a) the principle of rational accommodation where an individual seeks to maximize agreements between different points of view.
  - (b) the principle of humanity where an individual seeks to understand an individual's new or different ideas in terms of that individual's point of view.
  - (c) both a and b are true.
  - (d) none of the above are true.

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