

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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