

Listening Guide

This Listening Guide is designed to help you ask questions and take notes on what you're learning. The process will accomplish two things: first, it will help process the information in the lecture by keeping your mind engaged with the material. Second, it will allow you to collect your notes in one place for a summary of the lesson's content. If you choose to do additional study or want to teach the material to others, you will have a thorough set of notes to guide you.

You may print these Listening Guide pages separately and complete the information as you read, listen to, or watch the lessons. Or as an alternative, you can fill in the fields in this digital version and save to your computer once you are finished.

[1] In a few sentences explain “The Blind Men and the Elephant” illustration concerning the misperception of truth.

[2] Write about a situation where you recall being confused or embarrassed because you only knew part of the truth.

[3] State the important point of this parable in your own words.

[4] What sources of information shape your version of reality?

[5] What do these sources tell you?

[6] Who or what would you name as the most powerful shaper of your worldview?

[7] Although the dockworker and the philosophy teacher are exposed to different daily experiences, both take in and process information about how our world “works.” Name one or two incidents in your life that influenced your beliefs and attitudes.

[8] Is there someone you talk with regularly who has a clearly different “window” on the world than yours? How does that affect your relationship?

[9] Name two or three core beliefs that shape your worldview.

[10] Write your definition of a worldview in your own words.

[11] Over the past few years, have you conversed with anyone who holds a different worldview?

[12] If so, how did differences in your worldviews surface?

[13] How did the conversation go?

Monotheism

[14] Do you agree with Monotheism that one God exists who is separate from but involved with the universe?

[15] If so, which of the three monotheistic religions do you follow, if any?

[16] How does your belief about God influence your overall view of the world and your place in it?

[17] In what ways do you agree and/or disagree with the Jewish worldview as stated here?

[18] In what ways are Judaism and Christianity similar and in what ways are they different?

[19] Name two or three ways Islam is like and unlike Judaism and Christianity.

Deism

[20] How are monotheism and deism alike and how are they different?

[21] Which makes the most sense to you? Why?

[22] Many monotheists depend more on reason than revelation and others depend more on revelation than reason. How do you balance the two options?

Naturalism

[23] Darwin's *The Origin of Species* has had a profound influence on many people's worldview. How would and/or do you balance Darwin's theories with a monotheistic worldview?

[24] Can you relate an experience or conversation you observed or participated in where a Darwinist and a creationist discussed their worldviews?

[25] If so, what was that experience like?

[26] Did it influence your worldview? If so, how?

[27] How would agreement with Sagan's quote here shape a worldview that's different from a monotheistic view of a creator God?

[28] How would it differ from a deistic worldview?

Nihilism

[29] How would you explain the difference between objective and subjective truth?

[30] How would you explain the difference between an objective and a relativistic view of truth?

[31] Can you name a few truths and moral values you consider to be rational, objective, and believable by all people?

[32] At a functional level, is your life governed by any moral absolutes?

[33] If yes, name a few. If not, describe how you make moral decisions.

[34] What do you think a completely nihilistic culture would look like?

[35] Would you prefer living in a nihilistic world or a rationalistic world?

Existentialism

[36] This section on existentialism talks about an extreme view of freedom from external control. Would the other extreme be complete subjection to an outside control?

[37] Is there a middle ground? If you say yes, what would that look like?

[38] Can you think of any authority you trust enough to follow without reservation?

[39] How would you describe existentialism in your own words to a high school student?

Pantheism

[40] What two religions are the primary teachers of pantheism?

[41] What are two parts of “a starting premise of this kind of pantheism”?

[42] What is a logical outcome of these beliefs? “Therefore...” What?

[43] How can we, since we are part of the soul of the universe, become one with the universe?

[44] What movement has popularized these beliefs in the West?

[45] Does all this mean that meditation is a bad or dangerous practice?

[46] How does Psalm 1:2 influence your answer to question 45?

[47] Does transcendental meditations' roots nullify any helpful results of its use?

[48] If someone finds its practice beneficial, should they avoid it because it is pantheistic?

[49] If someone argues that its roots don't matter and want to use it for its benefits are there any cautions associated with its use?

Personal Combinations

[50] Now that you've reviewed and prioritized the various worldviews in this lesson, what elements would you include in forming a personal worldview?

[51] Parts of your worldview, at this point, may be somewhat like wet cement. As the course progresses through the various points listed in this paragraph, you should come back to what you have just written and see if and how you could re-form it to include what you're learning.

Reflection

Record one new fact or insight you discovered in this lesson.

Application

As you review the six worldviews:

1. Summarize each one in your own words.
2. Prioritize them on the basis of most to least helpful in creating a healthy worldview.