



## Unit 6: Lesson 2 - Assessment [Teacher's Edition]

### Human Exceptionalism and How Certain Is Extraterrestrial Life

**Section 1: True or False** - Indicate whether each of the following statements are TRUE or FALSE.

1. Human exceptionalism supports the idea that humans are the most intelligent beings in the universe.

**TRUE** FALSE

2. Aristotle believed in the uniqueness of Earth in the universe.

**TRUE** FALSE

**Section 2: Multiple Choice** - Choose the correct answer for each of the following questions.

3. What is the primary subject of astrobiology?
  - a. The history of space exploration
  - b. The study of life beyond Earth**
  - c. The physics of black holes
  - d. The chemical composition of stars
4. According to Islamic theology, who is considered the best of all creation?
  - a. Angels
  - b. Jinn
  - c. Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him)**
  - d. Human beings in general
5. What philosophical view did Epicurus hold about life on Earth?
  - a. The Earth is the center of the universe
  - b. Life exists only on Earth
  - c. The goal of life is happiness and pleasure**
  - d. There is no death
6. The philosophical view that emphasizes sensory experience as the primary source of knowledge is known as:
  - a. Rationalism
  - b. Empiricism**
  - c. Existentialism
  - d. Nihilism
7. Which statement best describes the theological stance on the existence of extraterrestrial life in this lesson?
  - a. It is definitively proven by religious texts.
  - b. It is categorically denied by religious scholars.
  - c. It is considered a broad metaphysical possibility.**
  - d. It is only supported by certain religious denominations.



8. According to the lesson, how does the concept of human exceptionalism relate to the search for extraterrestrial life?
  - a. It supports the likelihood of finding intelligent extraterrestrial life.
  - b. It questions the intelligence of any potential extraterrestrial life.
  - c. It has no impact on the scientific search for extraterrestrial life.
  - d. It is used to justify the prioritization of space exploration.
9. In the context of the lesson, the belief in human exceptionalism is challenged by the philosophy of:
  - a. Aristotle
  - b. Socrates
  - c. Epicurus
  - d. Plato
10. What does the lesson suggest about the relationship between science and theology in exploring extraterrestrial life?
  - a. Science and theology are fundamentally incompatible.
  - b. Science provides proof for theological claims.
  - c. Theology can inform scientific inquiries and vice versa.
  - d. Theological perspectives are irrelevant in scientific research.
11. The concept of 'Seven Earths' in Islamic theology is an example of what type of knowledge?
  - a. Empirical
  - b. Theoretical
  - c. Revelatory
  - d. Rational
12. The lesson's discussion on the allocation of resources for space exploration highlights what aspect of scientific research?
  - a. The inefficiency of space research
  - b. The prioritization of scientific curiosity and inconspicuous motivations
  - c. The necessity of space exploration for human survival
  - d. The role of political influence in scientific endeavors

**Section 3: Short Answer** - Write a well-formulated response for each of the following.

13. Describe the concept of 'Multiplicity of Worlds and Realms' in the context of this lesson.

This concept refers to the idea that there are multiple worlds and realms ('ālamīn) in the universe, as suggested by certain religious and scientific perspectives. It acknowledges the vastness of the universe and the possibility of various forms of life and environments beyond Earth.



14. How does the philosophical perspective of Epicurus influence modern scientific inquiry into extraterrestrial life?

Epicurus' philosophy, which emphasizes materialism and the pursuit of happiness free from fear, including the fear of death, influences some modern scientists. This worldview can drive a curiosity to explore the universe, seeking evidence of diverse forms of life to understand humanity's place and refute notions of human exceptionalism.

15. Discuss the interplay between science, philosophy, and theology in understanding the concept of extraterrestrial life, using examples from the lesson.

Students should provide an in-depth analysis of how different disciplines contribute to our understanding of extraterrestrial life. They should mention the scientific approach of astrobiology, the philosophical perspectives of Aristotle and Epicurus, and the theological viewpoints, especially from Islamic theology, about human exceptionalism and the Prophet Muhammad's (peace be upon him) role in the universe.

16. Is the allocation of the US government's \$55 billion budget for space exploration justified? Why or why not? If you believe it is not justified, then describe a more appropriate allocation for this funding.

Answers are personal opinions so they will vary, but the justification should be reasonable with supporting evidence.