

Unit 1: Lesson 1 - Assessment [Teacher's Edition]

Intro to Epistemology and Islamic Epistemologies

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

1. Another term for a proposition is judgment.
TRUE FALSE
2. A proposition, or judgment, is a sentence that can either be true or false.
TRUE FALSE
3. Rational judgments are statements we know which do not require our senses nor revelation.
TRUE FALSE
4. The existence of God is a rational judgment.
TRUE FALSE
5. In Islamic thought, science and religion are seen as completely separate with no overlap.
TRUE FALSE
6. Propositional knowledge in Islamic theology is about statements that can be true or false.
TRUE FALSE

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

7. What is Epistemology the study of?
 - a. Philosophy
 - b. Knowledge
 - c. Alleles
 - d. History
8. What is the correct definition of a proposition?
 - a. A statement which must be true.
 - b. A statement that must be negated.
 - c. A statement which can either be true or false.
 - d. A formal written suggestion or plan to discuss with others.
9. What body of knowledge in Islam is dependent on true reports?
 - a. Hadith
 - b. Research
 - c. Seerah
 - d. All of the above
10. Which of the following is NOT a source of knowledge in Islamic epistemology?
 - a. The five senses
 - b. The intellect (al-'aql)
 - c. Inspiration (Ilhaam)
 - d. Astrology
11. What does the Quranic verse "So where are you going?" (Surah At-Takwir, 81:26) encourage?
 - a. Historical study
 - b. Questioning and deep thinking

- c. Blind faith
- d. Memorization of facts

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

12. State whether each statement is an example of the principle of non-contradiction (PNC) or the principle of the excluded middle (PEM).
 - a. It is raining here right now. **PEM - It is either raining or not raining at a given time, no third option, and both can not happen simultaneously.**
 - b. A car is red. **PNC - A car can not be both red and not red at the same time, it is either red or not red. BUT cars can be other colors, so there is a possibility for a other options.**
 - c. A coin toss. **PEM - a coin toss will either land heads or tails, there is no third possibility.**
 - d. Three is an odd number. **PEM - a number is either even or odd, no other category.**
 - e. A statement cannot be both true and false at the same time. **PNC - definition of PNC, if a statement is true, its negation must be false, and vice versa.**

13. If testimonial knowledge, or true reports, relies on a person to convey the information, what is the truth of such reports dependent on? Explain. What would make their testimony more valid? **Testimonial knowledge rests on the reliability of the person conveying the report, if they are an honest person. Having other witnesses, having other proofs that they witnessed the information or event, and/or having others testify to their honest character (reputation of honesty) would all make their testimony stronger. [This is helpful for further thought/prep for the lesson on Hadith and reporting Hadith - in Unit 6.]**

14. Explain the Correspondence Theory of Truth using an example. **Correspondence Theory of Truth states that for a statement to be true, things must be described according to their reality. So truth means correspondence with the facts of that object. For example, take the proposition "Some cats meow." Is it true that some cats meow? Yes, this corresponds with the reality and fact that some cats meow.**

15. What are the 4 sources of knowledge that Islam recognizes? Are they the same sources of knowledge that Naturalists recognize? **There are 4 sources of knowledge: the five senses, intellect, true reports, and inspiration. Naturalists do not recognize all of these sources. Naturalists would accept *only* the five senses because they only accept that which is empirical.**