

<b>7 World view Questions</b>	<b>Christian theism</b>	<b>Modernism (Naturalism)</b>	<b>Postmodernism (Existentialism)</b>
What is <b>prime reality</b> – the really real? (Who/What is in charge?)	<b>God</b> is infinite and personal (Triune), transcendent, omniscient, sovereign, and good	<b>Matter</b> exists eternally and is all there is	<b>Self</b> is the kingpin—the prime reality. Humans use language to construct reality. God exists in the minds of some individuals solely for the purpose of creating meaning and value.
What is the nature of <b>external</b> reality, that is, the <b>world</b> around us?	God created the cosmos from nothing (ex nihilo) with a uniformity of natural causes in an <b>open</b> system	The cosmos exists as a uniformity of cause and effect in a <b>closed</b> system	The cosmos is composed solely of matter; but to human beings reality appears in <b>two forms – subjective and objective</b> . The truth about the external world is forever hidden from us; all we can do is tell stories.
What does it mean to be <b>human</b> ?	Human beings are created in the <b>image of God</b> and thus possess personality, self-transcendence, intelligence, morality, social capacity, and creativity	Human beings are <b>complex “machines”</b> ; personality is an interrelationship of chemical and physical properties we do not yet fully understand	As the <b>highest form of life</b> , humans now have the capacity to create meaning for themselves; human beings make themselves who they are by the <b>languages they construct about themselves</b>
What happens to a person at <b>death</b> ?	For each person death is the <b>gate to life with God</b> and his people or the <b>gate to eternal separation</b> from God and His purposes, which claim to be the ultimate fulfillment of human aspirations.	Death is the <b>extinction</b> of personality and individuality	Physical death is the end of the objective world, but the <b>subjective part probably lives on</b> somewhere in another world that is similar to our stories/myths of the afterlife
Why is it possible to <b>know</b> anything at all?	Human beings can know both the world around them and God himself because <b>God has built into them the capacity</b> to do so and because He takes an active role in communicating with them	We only know through experimentation on data observable through our <b>five senses</b>	Knowledge is <b>purely subjective</b> ; the whole truth is often paradoxical. Truth is a “mobile army of metaphors.”
How do we know what is <b>right</b> and <b>wrong</b> ? (Ethics)	Ethics is transcendent and is based on the <b>character of God</b> as good (holy and loving)	Ethics is related only to human beings (no consciousness prior to humans); there are <b>no absolute standards</b> , therefore each person develops their own	Ethics, like knowledge, is a <b>linguistic construct</b> ; social good is whatever <b>society</b> takes it to be. Categories of space, time, and morality tend to disappear.
What is the <b>meaning</b> of human history? (or <b>personal purpose/destiny</b> )	Human beings are created good, but through the Fall the image of God in humans became defaced, though not so ruined as to be incapable of restoration; through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God redeemed humanity and began the process of restoring people to goodness, realized through each person’s choice. History is <b>linear</b> , a meaningful sequence of events leading to the <b>fulfillment of God’s purposes</b> for humanity.	History is a linear stream of events linked by cause and effect but <b>without any overarching purpose</b> . If humans have any significance it is because they are the most highly evolved forms of life on earth.	Humans <b>create their own significance</b> in spite of the fact there is no ultimate meaning or purpose. In full recognition of and against the absurdity of the objective world, the authentic person must revolt and create value. However, all narratives mask a play for power. The cutting edge of culture (and history) is literary theory that helps to expose this. <b>Diversity</b> is good where people are totally free as regards their nature and destiny.