

Name: _____

Date: _____

Complete the passage by filling in the blank with the most appropriate sentence.

1. Aesthetics is the branch of philosophy that studies beauty, taste and the phenomena related to them, and in a broad sense it takes in the philosophy of art, which examines the nature of art, artistic creativity, the meanings of works and the appreciation of audiences. Aesthetic properties are the features that influence the appeal of objects, and they include values which express positive or negative qualities, such as the contrast between beauty and ugliness. ---- On a common view, aesthetic experiences are associated with a disinterested pleasure detached from practical concerns.

- A)** Taste is a subjective sensitivity to such qualities, and differences in taste can lead to disagreements about the value of particular works.
- B)** The discipline acquired its present name only in the eighteenth century, although questions of this kind had been asked for far longer.
- C)** Philosophers disagree about whether these properties have an objective existence or instead depend upon the subjective experiences of those observing them.
- D)** Such judgements are made most confidently by those who have spent many years in the study of a single artistic tradition.
- E)** Beauty in nature has attracted much less philosophical attention than beauty in works made deliberately by human beings.

2. The meaning of life is the notion that an individual's life, human life, or existence in general possesses an inherent significance or a philosophical point. There is no consensus about the specifics of any such concept, or indeed about whether the concept exists in any objective sense at all. ---- The search for an answer has produced a great deal of philosophical, scientific, theological and metaphysical speculation over the course of history, and different people and different cultures continue to believe in different answers to it.

- A)** Religious traditions have generally supplied the most confident answers, and their accounts have changed remarkably little over many centuries.
- B)** Such speculation is now regarded by most professional philosophers as belonging outside the boundaries of their discipline altogether.
- C)** Analytic philosophers in particular have preferred to ask what the question itself means before attempting to answer it.
- D)** Discussion of the topic is pursued in English through questions such as "What is the meaning of life?", "What is the purpose of existence?" and "Why are we here?", and many answers have been proposed from many cultural and ideological backgrounds.
- E)** The phrase entered ordinary speech comparatively recently, and its popularity owes a good deal to nineteenth-century fiction.