SARTRE STUDY GUIDE

Sartre, “Existentialism is a Humanism”

* What view does Sartre say that all existentialists have in common?
* Explain the example of the book or paper-cutter. What does this show? How is this related to the idea of God the Creator?
* Sartre’s philosophy is atheistic; thus for him there is no God the Creator. What are all the implications of atheism for his existentialist philosophy?
* What is Sartre’s view on human responsibility and how does this view follow directly from the idea that there is no God the Creator? How is human responsibility related to human freedom?
* Explain the three existential emotions Sartre discusses: anxiety (or anguish), forlornness, and despair. How do these emotions testify to the fact of human freedom and responsibility?
* What does Sartre mean when he says that “We are alone, with no excuses” and that “man is condemned to be free”?