

Pioneers of Philosophical Thought

Philosophy · Answer Key · 8 Questions

1. Who is historically credited as the first Western philosopher for predicting a solar eclipse and proposing that water is the primary substance of all matter?

A) Thales of Miletus

- B) Anaximander
- C) Heraclitus
- D) Pythagoras

2. In which century did the 'Axial Age' occur, a period described by Karl Jaspers where major philosophical and religious traditions emerged simultaneously in Greece, India, and China?

A) 8th to 3rd century BCE

- B) 5th to 1st century BCE
- C) 10th to 6th century BCE
- D) 2nd century BCE to 2nd century CE

3. Which philosopher is credited with the invention of the 'Socratic Method' (elenchus), a form of cooperative argumentative dialogue based on asking and answering questions?

- A) Plato
- B) Aristotle

C) Socrates

- D) Xenophon

4. Who is the first female philosopher in the recorded history of the Western tradition, often associated with the Pythagorean school?

- A) Hypatia

B) Theano

- C) Diotima
- D) Aspasia

5. Which work by Aristotle is widely considered the first formal study of logic, establishing the system of categorical syllogisms used for centuries?

- A) Metaphysics
- B) Nicomachean Ethics

C) Organon

- D) Physics

6. The first known written record of the concept of 'Karma' as a causal moral law appears in which ancient philosophical text?

- A) The Rigveda
- B) The Bhagavad Gita
- C) The Brihadaranyaka Upanishad**
- D) The Dhammapada

7. Which philosopher is credited with being the first to systematically categorize biological species, effectively inventing the discipline of taxonomy?

- A) Plato
- B) Theophrastus
- C) Aristotle**
- D) Empedocles

8. Who was the first philosopher to argue that the earth revolves around the sun, a heliocentric discovery recorded by Archimedes?

- A) Aristarchus of Samos**
- B) Ptolemy
- C) Anaxagoras
- D) Democritus