

Foundational Concepts in Western Philosophy

Philosophy · Answer Key · 10 Questions

1. Which ancient Greek philosopher is credited with the principle of 'know thyself' and was sentenced to death for allegedly corrupting the youth of Athens?

- A) Plato
- B) Aristotle
- C) Socrates**
- D) Pythagoras

2. The Allegory of the Cave, illustrating the nature of reality and the pursuit of knowledge, is a central metaphor in the work of which philosopher?

- A) Aristotle
- B) Socrates
- C) Epicurus
- D) Plato**

3. René Descartes' famous declaration, 'Cogito, ergo sum' (I think, therefore I am), is the foundation of his epistemological system and is known as what?

- A) Empiricism
- B) Rationalism**
- C) Skepticism
- D) Existentialism

4. Immanuel Kant's ethical theory, which posits that morality is derived from duty and the categorical imperative, is known as what type of ethics?

- A) Utilitarianism
- B) Virtue Ethics
- C) Deontology**
- D) Hedonism

5. Which philosopher, often associated with existentialism, famously wrote 'Man is condemned to be free'?

- A) Friedrich Nietzsche
- B) Albert Camus
- C) Jean-Paul Sartre**
- D) Simone de Beauvoir

6. The concept of the 'will to power' and the critique of traditional morality are hallmarks of the philosophy of which German thinker?

- A) Georg Wilhelm Friedrich Hegel
- B) Arthur Schopenhauer
- C) Friedrich Nietzsche**
- D) Martin Heidegger

7. John Locke, a key figure in British Empiricism, argued that the human mind at birth is a 'tabula rasa,' meaning what?

- A) A blank slate**
- B) A repository of innate ideas
- C) A perfect rational instrument
- D) A reflection of divine will

8. Which philosopher developed the concept of the 'Übermensch' (Overman) in 'Thus Spoke Zarathustra' as an ideal to strive for?

- A) Søren Kierkegaard
- B) Arthur Schopenhauer
- C) Friedrich Nietzsche**
- D) Karl Marx

9. The philosophical school of Stoicism, emphasizing virtue, reason, and self-control, was significantly influenced by the teachings of which Athenian philosopher?

- A) Epicurus
- B) Zeno of Citium**
- C) Heraclitus
- D) Pythagoras

10. Bertrand Russell and Alfred North Whitehead's monumental work, 'Principia Mathematica,' aimed to establish what as the foundation of all mathematics?

- A) Intuitionism
- B) Formalism
- C) Logicism**
- D) Constructivism