Philosophical Firsts and Milestones

Philosophy · Answer Key · 16 Questions

1. Who is widely recognized as the first philosopher in the Western tradition?

A) Thales of Miletus
B) Socrates
C) Epicurus
D) Heraclitus

2. Which ancient Greek philosopher founded the Academy in Athens, widely considered the first institution of higher learning in the Western world?

A) Aristotle
B) Plato
C) Pythagoras
D) Diogenes

3. Which Greek thinker created the first formal system of logic, known for his work on categorical syllogisms?

A) Socrates
B) Plotinus
C) Aristotle
D) Parmenides

4. Which English philosopher introduced the inductive scientific method in his 1620 work Novum Organum?

A) Thomas Hobbes
B) John Locke
C) David Hume
D) Francis Bacon

5. Which philosopher proposed the concept of tabula rasa (blank slate), arguing that human minds are born without innate ideas?

A) John Locke
B) René Descartes
C) Baruch Spinoza
D) Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz

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6. Which ancient thinker formulated the earliest recorded philosophical paradoxes, such as Achilles and the Tortoise?

A) Protagoras
B) Zeno of Elea
C) Democritus
D) Empedocles

7. Who is traditionally credited with writing the Daodejing and founding the philosophical school of Daoism?

A) Mencius
B) Xunzi
C) Laozi
D) Zhuangzi

8. Who founded the philosophical school of Stoicism in Athens around 300 BCE?

A) Epicurus
B) Diogenes of Sinope
C) Pyrrho
D) Zeno of Citium

9. Which philosopher is famously referred to as the 'Father of Modern Philosophy' for introducing rationalist doubt and the phrase 'Cogito, ergo sum'?

A) René Descartes
B) Immanuel Kant
C) Jean-Jacques Rousseau
D) Arthur Schopenhauer

10. Which 19th-century French philosopher developed Positivism, asserting that authentic knowledge comes only from scientific observation?

A) Henri Bergson
B) Auguste Comte
C) Jean-Paul Sartre
D) Albert Camus

11. Which Neoplatonist scholar in 4th-century Alexandria is celebrated as one of the earliest documented female philosophers and mathematicians?

A) Diotima
B) Aspasia
C) Hypatia
D) Hipparchia

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12. Which ancient Greek philosopher established a famous school called 'The Garden' and taught that pleasure, defined as peace of mind, is the highest good?

A) Aristippus
B) Xenophanes
C) Gorgias
D) Epicurus

13. Which ancient Chinese thinker created a philosophical system centered on personal and governmental morality, justice, and social harmony?

A) Confucius
B) Han Feizi
C) Mozi
D) Sun Tzu

14. Which French thinker wrote the 1949 foundational text 'The Second Sex', pioneering feminist existential philosophy?

A) Hannah Arendt
B) Simone de Beauvoir
C) Mary Wollstonecraft
D) Judith Butler

15. Which philosopher authored the 1651 book 'Leviathan', establishing one of the first major modern formulations of social contract theory?

A) John Stuart Mill
B) Voltaire
C) Thomas Hobbes
D) Niccolò Machiavelli

16. Which German philosopher introduced 'transcendental idealism' in his groundbreaking 1781 work 'Critique of Pure Reason'?

A) G.W.F. Hegel
B) Friedrich Nietzsche
C) Baruch Spinoza
D) Immanuel Kant

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