

Philosophical Firsts and Milestones

Philosophy · Practice Test · 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

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

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