

PLATO



"What we call learning is only a process of recollection"

Born: 2,446 yrs. ago (427BC)

Books written: 25

Influence on philosophy: 9

Genius: 8

Fact: Plato was a student of Socrates

ARISTOTLE



"Truth resides in the world around us"

Born: 2,402 yrs. ago (384BC)

Books written: 13

Influence on philosophy: 10

Genius: 9

Fact: Aristotle tutored Alexander the Great

SOCRATES



"The unexamined life is not worth living"

Born: 2,488 yrs. ago (470BC)

Books written: 0

Influence on philosophy: 15

Genius: 7

Fact: Socrates preferred talking to writing.

EPICURUS



"Death is nothing to us"

Born: 2,359 yrs. ago (341BC)

Books written: 300

Influence on philosophy: 5

Genius: 4

Fact: Only a handful of his 300 works have actually survived.

AUGUSTINE



"You have made us for yourself, O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

Born: 1,664 yrs. ago (354)

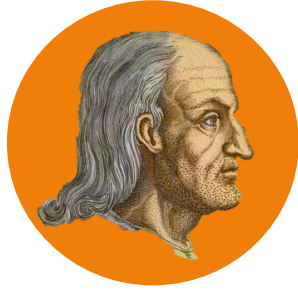
Books written: 5

Influence on philosophy: 7

Genius: 6

Fact: Before he converted, Augustine was very promiscuous.

ANSELM



"Just by thinking about God we can know He exists."

Born: 985 yrs. ago (1033)

Books written: 13

Influence on philosophy: 5

Genius: 4

Fact: Former Archbishop of Canterbury

MAIMONIDES



"When intellects contemplate God's essence, their apprehension turns to incapacity."

Born: 883 yrs. ago (1135)

Books written: 18

Influence on philosophy: 3

Genius: 6

Fact: A Jewish writer, Half of his books were about medicine.

AQUINAS



"A man has free choice to the extent he is rational"

Born: 793 yrs. ago (1225)

Books written: 39

Influence on philosophy: 13

Genius: 7

Fact: Known as the 'Doctor of the Church' by Catholics.

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KANT



"Thoughts without content are empty; intuitions without concepts are blind."

Born:	294 yrs. ago (1724)
Books written:	12
Influence on philosophy:	14
Genius:	12

Fact: Kant is famously hard to understand.

DESCARTES



"Cogito ergo sum: I think, therefore, I am"

Born:	422 yrs. ago (1596)
Books written:	5
Influence on philosophy:	13
Genius:	6

Fact: Often described as the father of modern philosophy

SPINOZA



"The human mind is part of the infinite intellect of God"

Born:	386 yrs. ago (1632)
Books written:	9
Influence on philosophy:	8
Genius:	4

Fact: Died of tuberculosis from working as a lens grinder.

LEIBNIZ



"We know hardly anything adequately"

Born:	372 yrs. ago (1646)
Books written:	2
Influence on philosophy:	8
Genius:	5

Fact: A brilliant mathematician and invented a calculator.

VOLTAIRE



"This is the best of all possible worlds"

Born:	324 yrs. ago (1694)
Books written:	17
Influence on philosophy:	4
Genius:	3

Fact: Had several long and scandalous affairs.

ROUSSEAU



"Man was born free, yet he is everywhere in chains"

Born:	306 yrs. ago (1712)
Books written:	7
Influence on philosophy:	5
Genius:	2

Fact: Thought that science and art erode morals.

BERKELEY



"Truth is the cry of all, but the game of few"

Born:	333 yrs. ago (1685)
Books written:	24
Influence on philosophy:	4
Genius:	4

Fact: Inventor of "if a tree fell over and no one was around to hear it..." question.

PASCAL



"Man is but a reed. The weakest nature; yet he is a thinking reed."

Born:	395 yrs. ago (1623)
Books written:	9
Influence on philosophy:	3
Genius:	9

Fact: Created the world's first public transport service.

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HOBBS



"Life is but a motion of limbs"

Born:	430 yrs. ago (1588)
Books written:	51
Influence on philosophy:	6
Genius:	7

Fact: Used to hang out with Descartes and Galileo Galilei.

LOCKE



"Everything we know is gained from experience"

Born:	386 yrs. ago (1632)
Books written:	15
Influence on philosophy:	9
Genius:	10

Fact: Most famous for his political writings.

BENTHAM



"Every law is an infraction of liberty"

Born:	270 yrs. ago (1748)
Books written:	26
Influence on philosophy:	11
Genius:	10

Fact: His head is on display at the University College London.

MILL



"It is better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a fool satisfied"

Born:	212 yrs. ago (1806)
Books written:	43
Influence on philosophy:	11
Genius:	9

Fact: Put ideas into practice as a politician.

KIERKEGAARD



"Anxiety is the dizziness of freedom"

Born:	205 yrs. ago (1813)
Books written:	7
Influence on philosophy:	10
Genius:	6

Fact: Plato was a student of Socrates

HUME



"Nature, by absolute and uncontrollable necessity, has determined us to judge as well as to breath and feel."

Born:	307 yrs. ago (1711)
Books written:	8
Influence on philosophy:	11
Genius:	13

Fact: Wrote a book of the history of Great Britain.

HEGEL



"To comprehend what is, is the task of philosophy, for what is, is reason."

Born:	248 yrs. ago (1770)
Books written:	6
Influence on philosophy:	9
Genius:	10

Fact: Was once a school headmaster.

SCHOPENHAUER



"A man can do what he wants, but not want what he wants"

Born:	230 yrs. ago (1788)
Books written:	8
Influence on philosophy:	7
Genius:	3

Fact: Misogynist and had lots of affairs, not the nicest guy.

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PETER SINGER

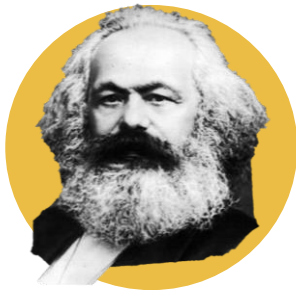


"The value of life is notoriously difficult question"

Born:	72 yrs. ago (1946)
Books written:	5
Influence on philosophy:	3
Genius:	2

Fact: The only one in this game still alive.

KARL MARX



"The abolition of religion as the illusory happiness of the people is required for real happiness."

Born:	200 yrs. ago (1818)
Books written:	21
Influence on philosophy:	11
Genius:	10

Fact: Literally wrote the book on Communism.

JEAN-PAUL SATRE



"Our existence precedes our essence"

Born:	113 yrs. ago (1905)
Books written:	8
Influence on philosophy:	10
Genius:	9

Fact: 50,000 people attended his funeral

LEVINAS



"Faith is not a question of the existence or non-existence of God. It is believing that love without reward is valuable"

Born:	112 yrs. ago (1906)
Books written:	42
Influence on philosophy:	2
Genius:	1

Fact: Wrote a lot about relationships, probably a lovely man.

WITTGENSTEIN



"What we cannot speak about, we must pass over in silence."

Born:	129 yrs. ago (1889)
Books written:	12
Influence on philosophy:	5
Genius:	3

Fact: Temporarily retired when he thought he'd solved philosophy.

POPPER



"Every solution to a problem creates new unsolved problems."

Born:	116 yrs. ago (1902)
Books written:	21
Influence on philosophy:	10
Genius:	7

Fact: He worked as a school teacher for six years.

NIETZSCHE



"God is dead"

Born:	174 yrs. ago (1844)
Books written:	17
Influence on philosophy:	11
Genius:	11

Fact: Somewhat unsurprisingly, Nietzsche went insane.

RUSSELL



"Immense harm is caused by the belief that work is virtuous"

Born:	146 yrs. ago (1872)
Books written:	8
Influence on philosophy:	7
Genius:	7

Fact: Thought that resting was more important than working.

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