Twenty
Great Philosophers

1.   This early Greek philosopher believed that reality and truth depend upon each person's unique view of the world. He therefore promoted the doctrine of "individual relativism."

        Answer:

2.   This philosopher taught that self mastery, self control, and living a life of introspection was crucial to living a virtuous life. He developed a unique way of teaching based on asking his students questions.

        Answer:

3.   Conceived of the human soul as consisting of three parts: rational; spirit; and desires. Believed the soul could be controlled by the exercise of reason.

        Answer:

4.   Promoted the idea that adherence to certain virtues and the development of good habits are the keys to living a virtuous life.

        Answer:

5.   Early Greek Philosopher who believed that one ought to pursue pleasure and avoid pain.

        Answer:

6.   Early Greek philosopher who believed in Stoicism and the notion that one cannot choose the external circumstances one encounters in life, but one is capable of choosing how one feels, thinks, and responds to those circumstances.

        Answer:

7.   Roman emperor who believed that the quality of one's life was dependant upon the quality of one's thoughts.

        Answer:

8.   This philosopher saw the world as being evil. He believed that people are inherently competitive, corrupt, evil, and self serving. He promoted the principle that survival was dependant upon grabbing power, holding on to it, and exercising it for self preservation.

        Answer:

9.   Believed the natural desire of people is to dominate others and to reshape the world to fit one's own preferences. He was a staunch critic of Christianity.

        Answer:

10. This philosopher believed the human desire for self preservation caused a perpetual state of war in which everyone has a natural right to anything necessary for survival. He promoted the idea that a strong government was necessary to moderate the state of war. He promoted the social contract theory.

       Answer:

11. Believed the just and fair distribution of goods and services will occur naturally if people were encouraged and allowed to pursue their self interests without intervention.

       Answer:

12. This French philosopher believed man is by nature inherently good and that the path to freedom is to remain true to your self.

       Answer:

13. Believed that moral convictions should be based on feelings rather than on reason.

       Answer:

14. This philosopher is considered the father of Existentialism. He believed in individual reflection, contemplation, and the freedom to choose your own moral standard.

       Answer:

15. Believed that man possesses individual freedom; i.e. the capacity to choose what we will be and how we will see the world.

       Answer:

16. Utilitarian philosopher who felt that an action is right if it brings about a greater balance of good over bad consequences.

       Answer:

17. Promoted the idea of the "categorical imperative" that there are certain universal and absolute principles of right and wrong that transcend time and culture, and that one ought to follow the maxim/rule that you would wish all to follow as a universal principle.

       Answer:

18. Utilitarian philosopher who believed one ought to seek pleasure and avoid pain.

       Answer:

19. Fictional 24st Century character who said "the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the one or the few."

       Answer:

20. Authenticity is everything, if you can fake that you can be President.

       Answer:

Anonymous

Aristotle

Aurelius, Marcus

Bentham, Jeremy

Epicurus

Epictetus

Protagoras

Hobbes, Thomas

Hume, David

Kant, Immanuel

Kierkegaard, Soren

Machiavelli, Nicollo

Mill, John Stuart

Nietzsche, Friedrich

Plato

Sartre, Jean Paul

Smith, Adam

Socrates

Spock

Rousseau, Jean