

PLATO

"The unexamined life is not worth living."

Category	Score
Influence	95
Quote-ability	86
Clarity	69
Subversiveness	88
Brevity	41
Mind Explosion Index	92



424BC - 348BC; GR

Tagline: Shadows freak him out; Forms are forever.

Anecdote: Allegedly founded his Academy outside Athens and treated it like a philosophical boot camp. Influenced the Gnostic notion of the Demiurge.

Auto-Win Hack: Moves the discussion into the Cave; any argument about reality or ideals automatically favours him (your "higher score" can't escape the shadows). The GOAT.

AUGUSTINE

"Our hearts are restless until they rest in you."

Category	Score
Influence	92
Quote-ability	83
Clarity	75
Subversiveness	55
Brevity	43
Mind Explosion Index	75



354 - 430; DZ

Tagline: Obsessed with sin, time, and the art of confession. Apparently, we are all *massa peccati*. Thnx.

Anecdote: His *Confessions* mixes autobiography and theology, famously confessing trivial childhood misdeeds. Don't mention pears...

Influence Hack: Calls you a sinner and demands you repent—and pay him your card. If you're an atheist, you win by default, only because he doesn't know what to do with you... but you still feel weirdly guilty about it all.

AL-GHAZALI

"Knowledge without action is insanity, and action without knowledge is vanity."

Category	Score
Influence	56
Quote-ability	79
Clarity	80
Subversiveness	87
Brevity	49
Mind Explosion Index	81



1058 - 1111; IR

Tagline: Philosopher, mystic, and occasional critic of reason.

Anecdote: Left a prestigious teaching post to live as a wandering ascetic in search of spiritual truth.

Mystic Swap Hack: What you were holding is now his; and what he was holding is mysteriously yours—chaos wins. Al-Ghazali fades into obscurity, and you forfeit your next turn. Burn...

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ARISTOTLE

"We are what we repeatedly do."

Category	Score
Influence	95
Quote-ability	77
Clarity	59
Subversiveness	60
Brevity	35
Mind Explosion Index	80



384BC - 322BC; GR

Tagline: Categorizes everything—from apples to ethics.

Anecdote: Kept and studied hundreds of animals, pioneering empirical biology. The long-forgotten birth parent of Christian Theology.

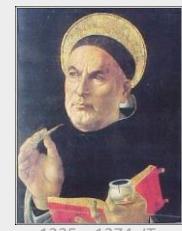
Alexander Influence Hack: Alexander the Great is looming in the background; hand over your next three cards or forfeit the game—only Aristotle's tutor gets to walk away.

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THOMAS AQUINAS

"To one who has faith, no explanation is necessary."

Category	Score
Influence	91
Quote-ability	73
Clarity	68
Subversiveness	51
Brevity	19
Mind Explosion Index	77



1225 - 1274; IT

Tagline: Five ways to prove God exists... And then 500 footnotes.

Anecdote: Integrated Aristotle into Christian theology while balancing monastic life. Discovered Natural Law.

ANSELM

"I believe in order to understand."

Category	Score
Influence	62
Quote-ability	75
Clarity	84
Subversiveness	70
Brevity	95
Mind Explosion Index	72

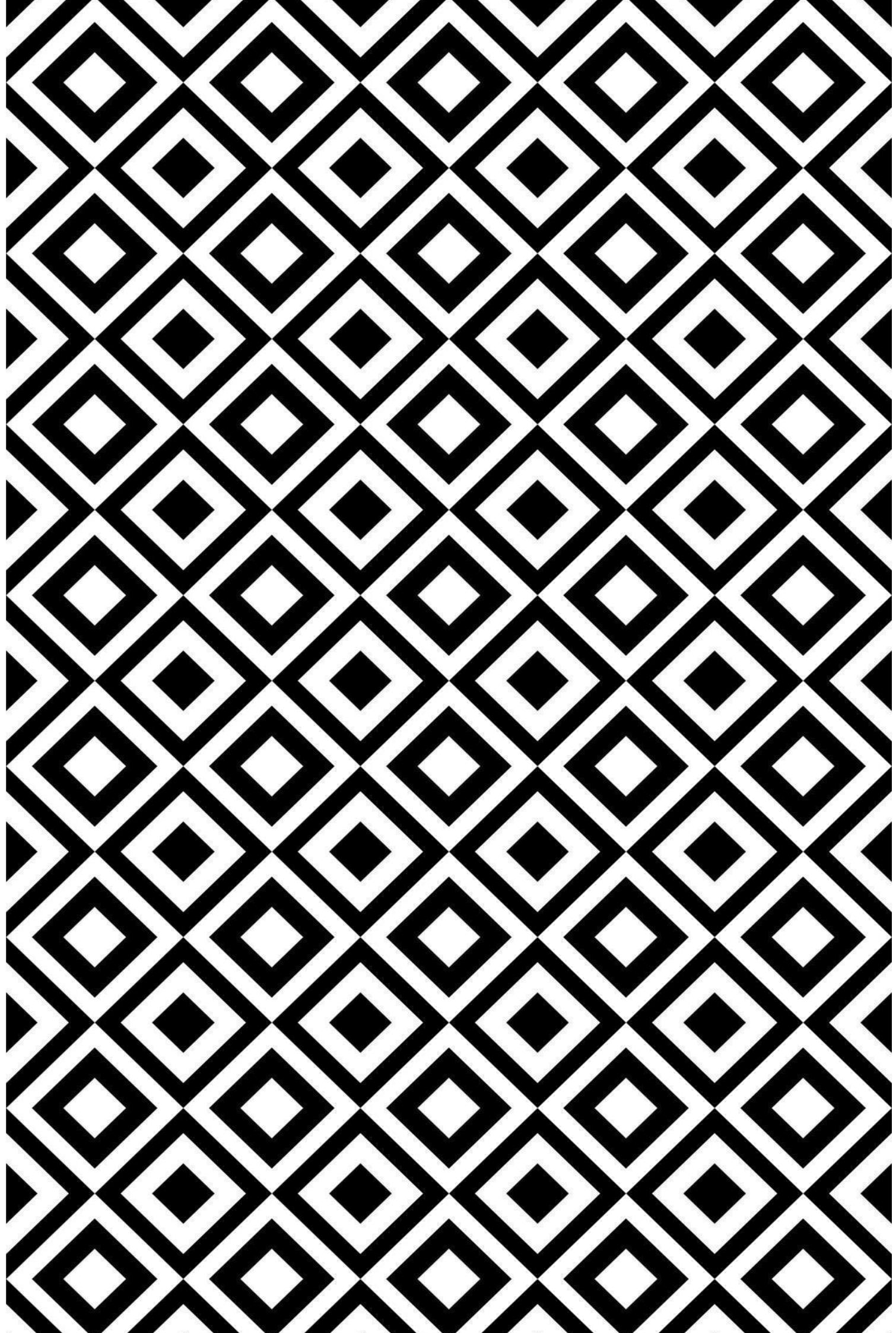


1033 - 1109; IT

Tagline: God exists... in your imagination at least.

Anecdote: Invented the ontological argument while preparing prayers. The MacDaddy of begging the question.

Perfect Game Hack: Insists that this is the greatest conceivable card game, and as such, he necessarily wins (your objections are logically impossible). Only the GOAT can convince him to drop it.



WILLIAM PALEY

"There cannot be design without a designer."

Category	Score
Influence	68
Quote-ability	83
Clarity	90
Subversiveness	48
Brevity	76
Mind Explosion Index	58



1743 – 1805; GB

Tagline: Watches are proof enough for a designer.

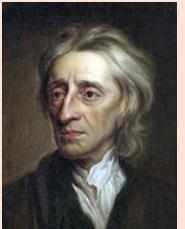
Anecdote: Developed the design argument from everyday observations like clocks in nature.

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JOHN LOCKE

"Where there is no law, there is no freedom."

Category	Score
Influence	85
Quote-ability	82
Clarity	88
Subversiveness	70
Brevity	58
Mind Explosion Index	71



1632 – 1704; GB

Tagline: Blank slate fanatic with a flair for rights.

Anecdote: Argued that education and experience shape knowledge, influencing modern political theory.

Brevity Backfire Hack: Tries to make his argument ultra-short, but in cutting words he accidentally leaves his reasoning incomplete, giving you an opening to win. You were always going to.

IMMANUEL KANT

"Act only according to that maxim whereby you can at the same time will that it should become a universal law."

Category	Score
Influence	91
Quote-ability	73
Clarity	22
Subversiveness	70
Brevity	24
Mind Explosion Index	86



1724 – 1804; DE

Tagline: Dense sentences, clear moral laws.

Anecdote: So punctual that locals reportedly set their clocks by his daily walks. Tried to break through to the noumenal, but couldn't get past the phenomena.

Clarity Hack: Insists he's smarter than you and you're not getting it; the categorical imperative demands you play by his rules, so hand over your card (morality itself enforces compliance).

DESCARTES

"I think, therefore I am."

Category	Score
Influence	89
Quote-ability	95
Clarity	82
Subversiveness	78
Brevity	71
Mind Explosion Index	83



1596 – 1650; FR

Tagline: Doubts everything, including your homework.

Anecdote: The paradigmatic armchair philosopher who conjured up "I think, therefore I am" after meditating on dreams and certainty. Category error personified.

Subversiveness Hack: First convinces you that you're dreaming, then that numbers might not exist—his evil demon has you so creeped out you just hand over your card (resisting is pointless; reality itself is under review). The GOAT heralds his dualism.

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DAVID HUME

"A wise man proportions his belief to the evidence."

Category	Score
Influence	83
Quote-ability	84
Clarity	86
Subversiveness	91
Brevity	68
Mind Explosion Index	90



1711 – 1776; GB

Tagline: Scepticism with style and a dash of irony.

Anecdote: Explored the *is-ought problem*, questioned miracles and causation, yet remains widely quoted for his insights.

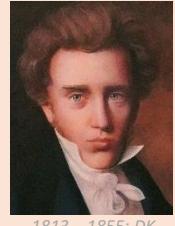
Reality Collapse Hack: Points out reliance on causation or miracles; your evidence evaporates (cause-and-effect? not today, friend. Don't argue—he doesn't want your card. Just put it down and shut up).

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SØREN KIERKEGAARD

"Anxiety is the dizziness of freedom."

Category	Score
Influence	76
Quote-ability	86
Clarity	60
Subversiveness	88
Brevity	53
Mind Explosion Index	84



1813 – 1855; DK

Tagline: Takes existential leaps while the rest of us tiptoe.

Anecdote: Explored faith, anxiety, and existence through pseudonymous works.

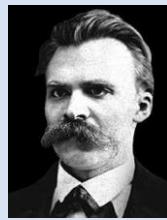
Quote-ability Hack: Turns anxiety and existential leaps into instant insight; suddenly everything you say sounds fallacious. Just give up and give your card over.



NIETZSCHE

“He who has a why [...] can bear almost any how.”

Category	Score
Influence	74
Quote-ability	100
Clarity	57
Subversiveness	100
Brevity	58
Mind Explosion Index	87



1844 – 1900; DE

Tagline: Questions everything, even God's taste in quotes.

Anecdote: Known for provocative writing and dramatic life events, including a mental breakdown in Turin. Subsequently caricaturized by his sister and appropriated by the Nazis.

Subversiveness Hack: Exposes the hidden will to power in your argument; even a higher-scoring card loses its moral high ground (moral certainties? laughable).

HARRIET TAYLOR MILL

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“Laws and institutions which treat women as inferiors are a wrong in themselves.”

Category	Score
Influence	48
Quote-ability	77
Clarity	82
Subversiveness	87
Brevity	69
Mind Explosion Index	76



1807 – 1858; GB

Tagline: Unsung co-author and champion of equality.

Anecdote: Influenced Mill's writings on liberty and women's rights, often uncredited in her time.

Equality Mega Hack: Automatically wins any debate about clarity or influence by adding the ignored half of humanity to the equation (your argument collapses under the weight of fairness). Even the GOAT has to concede on this one.

MICHEL FOUCAULT

“Where there is power, there is resistance.”

Category	Score
Influence	84
Quote-ability	85
Clarity	45
Subversiveness	96
Brevity	42
Mind Explosion Index	86



1926 – 1984; FR

Tagline: Maps hidden power everywhere—from schools to cells.

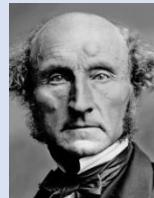
Anecdote: Studied prisons, clinics, and schools, showing that knowledge is power and knowledge-makers control narratives.

JOHN STUART MILL

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“Better to be Socrates dissatisfied than a pig satisfied.”

Category	Score
Influence	88
Quote-ability	81
Clarity	89
Subversiveness	74
Brevity	61
Mind Explosion Index	73



1806 – 1873; GB

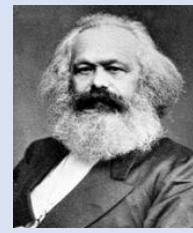
Tagline: Careful defender of liberty and happiness. Possibly a closeted raging elitist.

Anecdote: Raised in a rigorous household; promoted freedom and happiness in society while surviving intense intellectual pressure. Early male feminist polyglot.

KARL MARX

“The philosophers have only interpreted the world; the point, however, is to change it.”

Category	Score
Influence	90
Quote-ability	90
Clarity	62
Subversiveness	99
Brevity	35
Mind Explosion Index	87



1818 – 1883; DE

Tagline: Diagnoses capitalism and dreams of revolution.

Anecdote: Relied on Engels for financial support while producing groundbreaking political theory.

Class Lens Hack: Refuses to cede and reveals that this game itself is a reflection of class struggle. Give the card over or he'll quit playing!

A.J. AYER

“No statement which refers to a ‘reality’ transcending the limits of possible sense-experience can have any literal significance.”

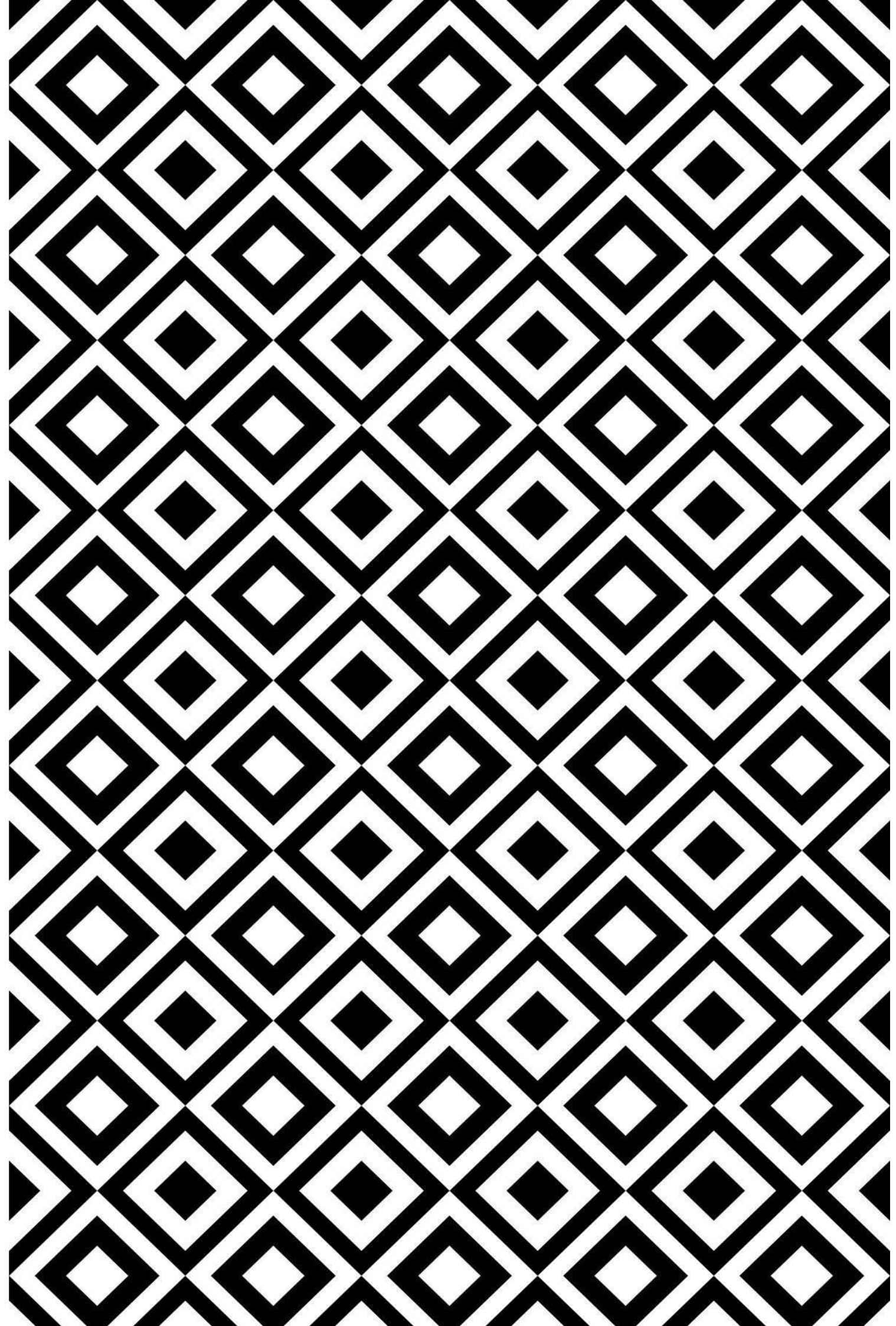
Category	Score
Influence	68
Quote-ability	70
Clarity	91
Subversiveness	80
Brevity	81
Mind Explosion Index	65



1910 – 1989; GB

Tagline: If it can't be verified, it doesn't exist... philosophically.

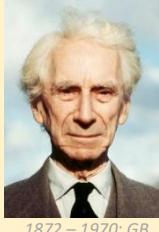
Anecdote: Overbearingly obsessed with verifiability, yet somehow verified that logic and charm can coexist in one philosopher.



BERTRAND RUSSELL

"The stupid are cocksure and the intelligent are full of doubt."

Category	Score
Influence	84
Quote-ability	87
Clarity	90
Subversiveness	79
Brevity	54
Mind Explosion Index	79



1872 – 1970; GB

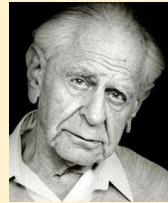
Tagline: Makes logic witty and activism persuasive.

Anecdote: Argued that nothing fundamentally new is discoverable through analytic reasoning and influenced Foucault's notion that knowledge is power.

KARL POPPER

"Our knowledge can only be finite, while our ignorance must necessarily be infinite."

Category	Score
Influence	78
Quote-ability	78
Clarity	84
Subversiveness	75
Brevity	52
Mind Explosion Index	77



1902 – 1994; AT

Tagline: Science thrives on falsification; certainty beware.

Anecdote: Emphasized testing theories and open societies; famously critical of historicist predictions.

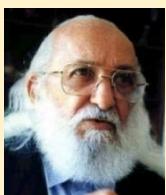
Summarize Hack: Declares your Mind Explosion Index score unfalsifiable; if it can't be tested, it doesn't count (your metrics fail Popper's scrutiny- give over the card).

PAULO FREIRE

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"To speak a true word is to transform the world."

Category	Score
Influence	78
Quote-ability	86
Clarity	80
Subversiveness	91
Brevity	59
Mind Explosion Index	83



1921 – 1997; BZ

Tagline: Turns classrooms into spaces of liberation.

Anecdote: Promoted *conscientisation*, empowering learners to question social structures, using newspapers and dialogue to teach critical thinking.

BELL HOOKS

"Feminism is for everybody."

Category	Score
Influence	79
Quote-ability	92
Clarity	92
Subversiveness	94
Brevity	71
Mind Explosion Index	81



1952 – 2021; US

Tagline: Thinks deeply about race, gender, and culture, accessibly.

Anecdote: Wrote extensively on intersectional feminism, making complex ideas accessible to students and the public.

Influence Hack: Turns every debate into a shared struggle, reminding everyone "we're all in this together," boosting her influence beyond the numbers (your solo brilliance doesn't beat collective insight). The GOAT can only just about beat this.

NOAM CHOMSKY

"Colourless green ideas sleep furiously."

Category	Score
Influence	87
Quote-ability	86
Clarity	75
Subversiveness	91
Brevity	37
Mind Explosion Index	85



1928 -; US

Tagline: Linguist and relentless critic of power structures.

Anecdote: Revolutionized linguistics and published influential political critiques such at *Manufacturing Consent*

Manufacturing Success: Reveals that your argument is shaped by hidden power structures and propaganda; suddenly your "objective" reasoning is part of his game (thought you were free? think again). Only Plato and Wittgenstein can beat this.

CORNEL WEST

"Justice is what love looks like in public."

Category	Score
Influence	77
Quote-ability	94
Clarity	82
Subversiveness	89
Brevity	56
Mind Explosion Index	79



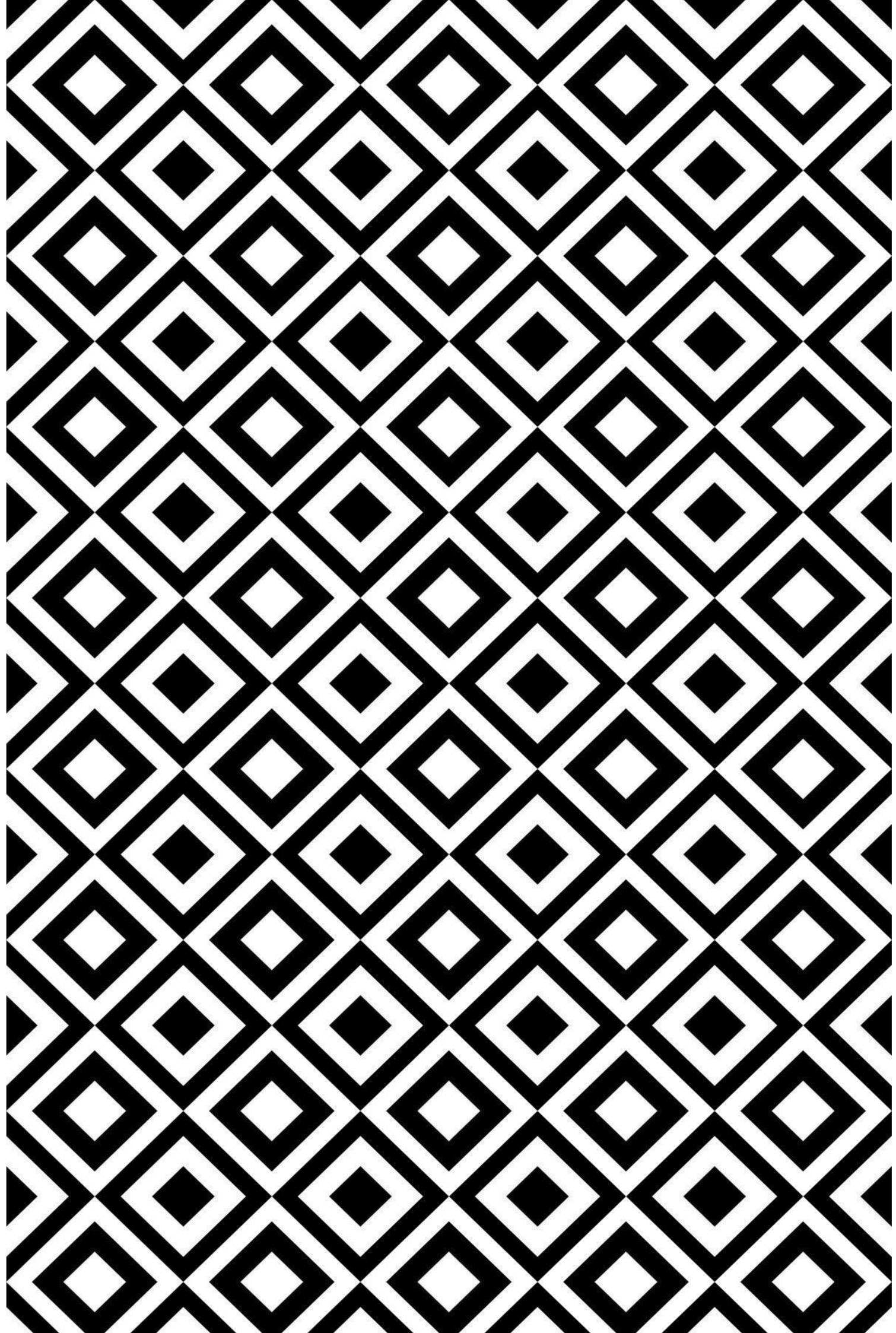
1953 -; US

Tagline: Combines philosophy, ethics, and social critique with flair.

Anecdote: Combines analysis of race, democracy, and ethics in scholarly and public writing.

Brevity Hack: Condenses a lifetime of wisdom into a single fiery line, outpacing his American contemporaries—he wins simply by saying more with less (brevity itself bows to style and passion).

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WITTGENSTEIN

“The limits of my language mean the limits of my world.”

Category	Score
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Influence	91
Quote-ability	90
Clarity	28
Subversiveness	95
Brevity	87

Mind Explosion Index 100



1889 – 1951; AT

Tagline: Tiny books, big ideas, and language games that bend your brain.

Anecdote: Lived simply while teaching and writing, producing works that *radically reshaped how philosophers think about meaning*, rules, and the games we play with language.

Mind Explosion Hack: He's already beaten you, but now he insists you're not playing the same game. Just smile.

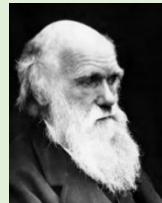
CHARLES DARWIN

“Endless forms most beautiful and most wonderful have been, and are being, evolved.”

Category	Score
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Influence	94
Quote-ability	76
Clarity	83
Subversiveness	93
Brevity	44

Mind Explosion Index 97



1809 – 1882; GB

Tagline: Evolution's quiet revolutionary.

Anecdote: Alongside Alfred Russel Wallace, developed the *Darwin-Wallace theory*; hesitated to publish *On the Origin of Species*, knowing it would challenge deeply held beliefs about creation.

MARTIN HEIDEGGER

“Language is the house of being.”

Category	Score
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Influence	92
Quote-ability	73
Clarity	28
Subversiveness	93
Brevity	23

Mind Explosion Index 83



1889 – 1976; DE

Tagline: Questions *Being*... and still can't find his keys.

Anecdote: Explores existence, temporality, and the human experience; famously dense prose leaves readers both enlightened and confused.

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DEREK PARFIT

“Personal identity is not what matters in survival.”

Category	Score
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Influence	81
Quote-ability	81
Clarity	67
Subversiveness	92
Brevity	50

Mind Explosion Index 86



1942 – 2017; GB

Tagline: Challenges the self... because who needs ego anyway?

Anecdote: Revolutionized philosophy of personal identity with his *non-identity problem*; friends suspected he might have split into multiple “selves” during arguments.

ANTONIO GRAMSCI

“The crisis consists precisely in the fact that the old is dying and the new cannot be born.”

Category	Score
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Influence	79
Quote-ability	92
Clarity	63
Subversiveness	99
Brevity	53

Mind Explosion Index 92



1891 – 1937; IT

Tagline: Prison philosopher plotting the slowest revolution ever.

Anecdote: Developed the concept of cultural *hegemony* in jail; reportedly could critique Italian politics better than anyone outside bars.

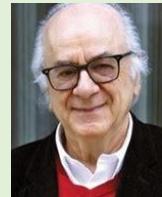
BOAVENTURA DE SOUSA SANTOS

“The struggle for global social justice [...] must be a struggle for global cognitive justice.”

Category	Score
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Influence	58
Quote-ability	97
Clarity	72
Subversiveness	95
Brevity	58

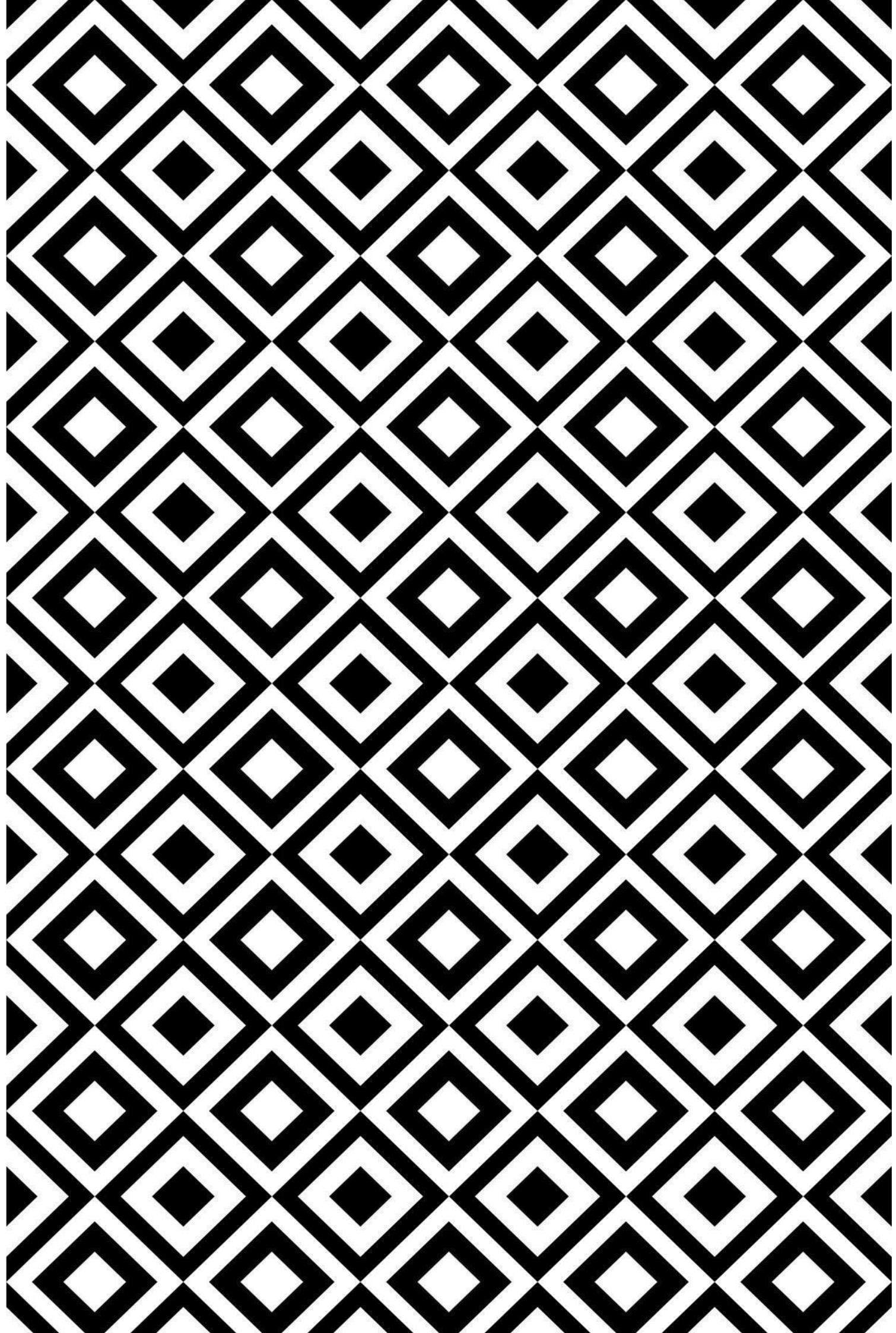
Mind Explosion Index 87



1940 ~; BR

Tagline: Challenges global knowledge hierarchies... and occasionally spills coffee on his books.

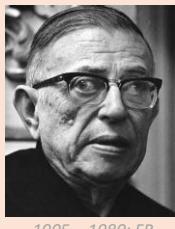
Anecdote: Advocates for marginalized ways of knowing while reminding us that even serious thinkers have to dodge literal and figurative puddles.



JEAN-PAUL SARTRE

“Existence precedes essence.”

Category	Score
Influence	72
Quote-ability	88
Clarity	47
Subversiveness	86
Brevity	54
Mind Explosion Index	85



1905 – 1980; FR

Tagline: Freedom, angst, and bad faith all in one package.

Anecdote: Founded existentialism in modern thought; argued that humans create meaning through choices in a godless world.

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HOBBES

“Life is nasty, brutish, and short.”

Category	Score
Influence	81
Quote-ability	83
Clarity	72
Subversiveness	74
Brevity	68
Mind Explosion Index	78



1588 – 1679; GB

Tagline: Human nature: scary but logical.

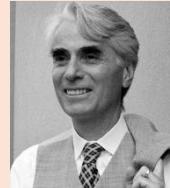
Anecdote: Advocated absolute sovereignty in *Leviathan* to avoid the chaos of the natural state; famously pessimistic about human behaviour.

Abyssal self-sabotage: Declares everyone a danger to society, then pompously gifts you half his cards, stating that Christian colonialism is a civilizing mission—all proving his own state of nature is a little bit messy.

ROBERT NOZICK

“Entitlement to holdings comes from justice in acquisition and transfer.”

Category	Score
Influence	79
Quote-ability	78
Clarity	74
Subversiveness	80
Brevity	66
Mind Explosion Index	77



1938 – 2002; US

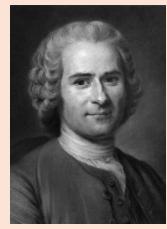
Tagline: Libertarian thought with a philosophical twist. Forbids the Experience Machines but promises it's fun.

Anecdote: Wrote *Anarchy, State, and Utopia*, arguing for minimal state intervention and the importance of individual rights.

JEAN-JACQUES ROUSSEAU

“Man is born free, and everywhere he is in chains.”

Category	Score
Influence	84
Quote-ability	82
Clarity	68
Subversiveness	88
Brevity	50
Mind Explosion Index	82



1712 – 1778; DE

Tagline: Makes social contracts feel like philosophy and drama.

Anecdote: Explored freedom, inequality, and society in *The Social Contract*, inspiring revolutions and debates about democracy.

EDMUND GETTIER

“Justified true belief is not sufficient for knowledge.”

Category	Score
Influence	79
Quote-ability	82
Clarity	70
Subversiveness	23
Brevity	100
Mind Explosion Index	79



1927 – 2021; US

Tagline: Makes epistemology a puzzle factory.

Anecdote: Shook centuries of epistemology with *Gettier problems*, showing—on one side of paper—that justified true belief isn't enough for knowledge.

MARTHA NUSSBAUM

“To be human is to have capabilities.”

Category	Score
Influence	77
Quote-ability	84
Clarity	88
Subversiveness	80
Brevity	62
Mind Explosion Index	81

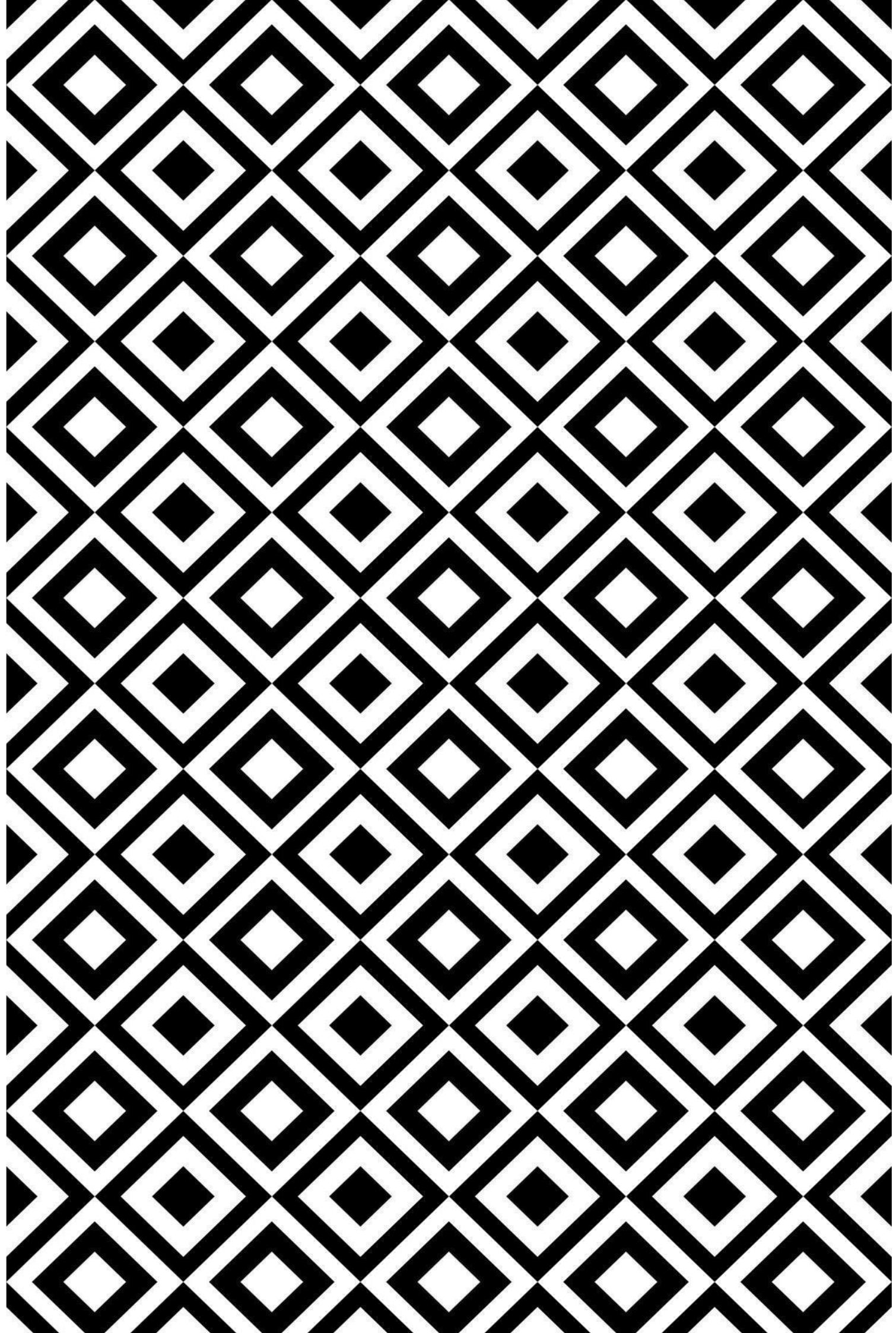


1947 – ; US

Tagline: Turns ethics and politics into a toolkit for flourishing.

Anecdote: Developed the capabilities approach, linking philosophy, ethics, and human development globally.

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GEORGE BERKELEY

“To be is to be perceived.”

Category	Score
Influence	78
Quote-ability	80
Clarity	75
Subversiveness	82
Brevity	70
Mind Explosion Index	78



1685 – 1753; GB

Tagline: Immortalizes perception over matter.

Anecdote: Argued for idealism, claiming reality exists only in perception, influencing later metaphysics and philosophy of mind.

DU BOIS

“The problem of the Twentieth Century is the problem of the colour line.”

Category	Score
Influence	68
Quote-ability	88
Clarity	85
Subversiveness	92
Brevity	70
Mind Explosion Index	78



1868 – 1963; US

Tagline: Sees double-consciousness long before “identity politics.”

Anecdote: Described double-consciousness in *The Souls of Black Folk*, linking sociology, history, and philosophy.

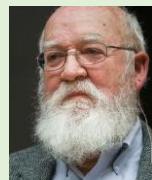
Clarity Hack: Unpacks your argument with the double-consciousness lens; suddenly everything you thought was clear is confused or incomplete (seeing through two perspectives makes him effortlessly sharper than his stats suggest).

DANIEL DENNETT

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“There is no such thing as philosophy-free science; there is only science whose philosophical baggage is taken on board without examination.”

Category	Score
Influence	72
Quote-ability	82
Clarity	88
Subversiveness	81
Brevity	67
Mind Explosion Index	77



1942 – 2024; US

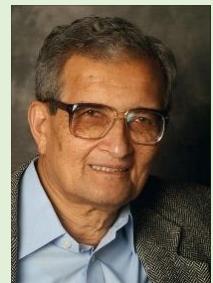
Tagline: Explains consciousness without any spooky stuff.

Anecdote: Advocates a naturalistic view of mind, challenging theories of the soul and AI.

AMARTYA SEN

“Development is freedom.”

Category	Score
Influence	79
Quote-ability	82
Clarity	86
Subversiveness	78
Brevity	64
Mind Explosion Index	77



1933 -; IN

Tagline: Economics meets ethics meets freedom.

Anecdote: Advocated for human development over pure GDP; Nobel laureate emphasizing capabilities and social justice.

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JUDITH BUTLER

“Gender is an identity tenuously constituted in time... through a stylized repetition of acts.”

Category	Score
Influence	73
Quote-ability	84
Clarity	62
Subversiveness	97
Brevity	48
Mind Explosion Index	81



1956 -; US

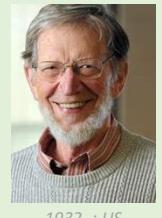
Tagline: Says gender is something you *do*, not just something you *are*.

Anecdote: Revolutionized feminist and queer theory by arguing that gender is performative.

ALVIN PLANTINGA

“Belief in God is properly basic.”

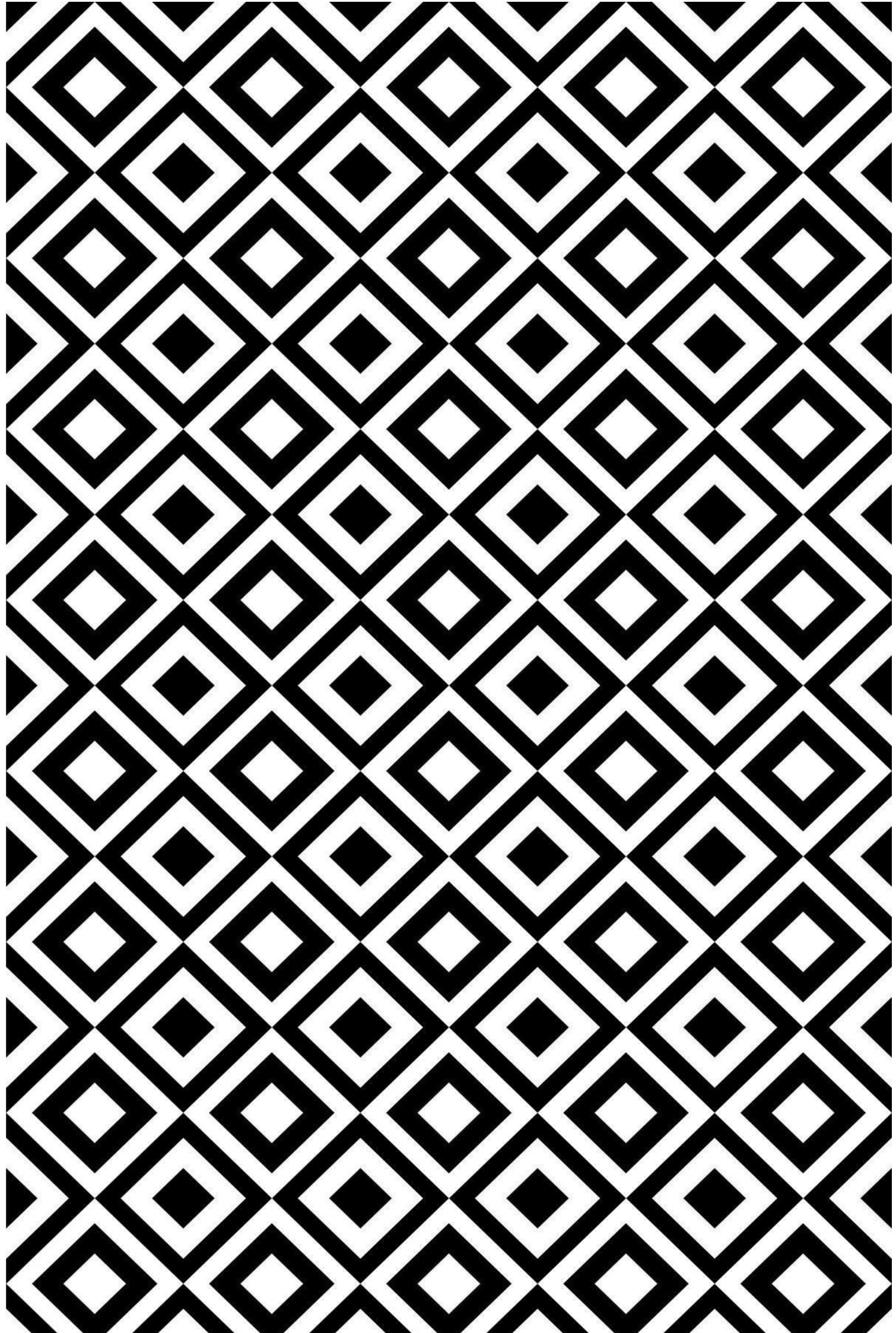
Category	Score
Influence	78
Quote-ability	80
Clarity	64
Subversiveness	83
Brevity	61
Mind Explosion Index	79



1932 -; US

Tagline: Gives faith a warrant your logic teacher has to respect. Loves a possible world, and a necessarily possibly necessary God...

Anecdote: Uses modal logic to argue God's existence can be rationally warranted.



ACHILLE MBEMBE

“The political is not merely about power; it is about who may live and who must die.”

Category	Score
Influence	46
Quote-ability	94
Clarity	65
Subversiveness	88
Brevity	46
Mind Explosion Index	81



1957-; CM

Tagline: Thinks deeply about power, death, and postcolonial futures.

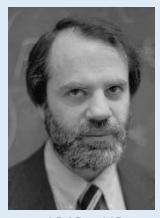
Anecdote: Explores necropolitics and the lingering effects of colonialism.

Megapedagogy.uk

SAUL Kripke

“Names are rigid designators that stick to their referents across all possible worlds.”

Category	Score
Influence	59
Quote-ability	88
Clarity	72
Subversiveness	80
Brevity	69
Mind Explosion Index	84



1940-; US

Tagline: Makes naming and necessity feel like rocket science.

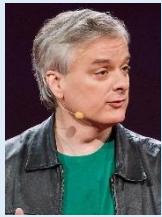
Anecdote: Revolutionized philosophy of language and metaphysics with *Naming and Necessity*.

DAVID CHALMERS

Megapedagogy.uk

“Conscious experience poses the hard problem of explaining why and how physical processes give rise to subjective experience.”

Category	Score
Influence	95
Quote-ability	77
Clarity	62
Subversiveness	85
Brevity	50
Mind Explosion Index	91



1966-; AU

Tagline: Maps the “hard problem” of consciousness with style.

Anecdote: Coined the term *hard problem* of consciousness, challenging neuroscience to explain subjective experience.

HILARY PUTNAM

“Philosophy of language is inseparable from philosophy of mind and epistemology.”

Category	Score
Influence	74
Quote-ability	75
Clarity	69
Subversiveness	77
Brevity	58
Mind Explosion Index	80



1926 – 2016; US

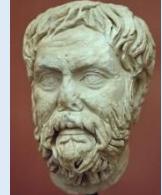
Tagline: Connects language, thought, and reality without tripping over himself.

Anecdote: Famous for the *Twin Earth* thought experiment; reshaped philosophy of language and mind.

PYRRHO

“Nothing is certain, not even this.”

Category	Score
Influence	53
Quote-ability	69
Clarity	68
Subversiveness	95
Brevity	88
Mind Explosion Index	87



360BC – 270BC; GR

Tagline: Master of chill through radical doubt.

Anecdote: Advocated suspending judgment to achieve mental tranquillity; influenced Sextus Empiricus and Stoics.

Suspension Hack: Declares all claims equally uncertain; no argument can defeat him because he suspends judgment on everything (certainty is a trap, so put your card in the middle).

J. L. Mackie

“Objective values do not exist; morality is man-made.”

Category	Score
Influence	82
Quote-ability	88
Clarity	85
Subversiveness	91
Brevity	74
Mind Explosion Index	83

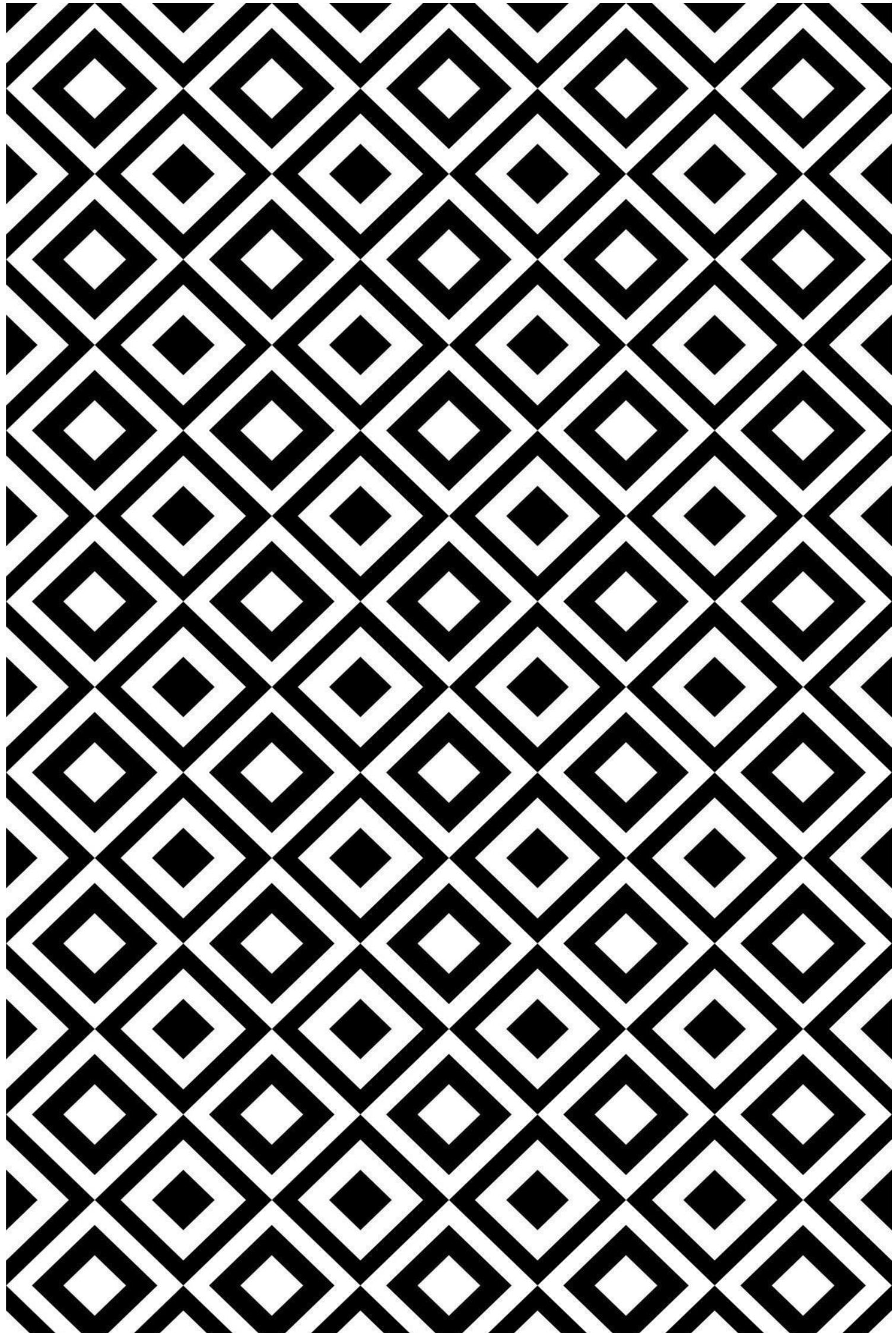


1917 – 1981; GB

Tagline: The devil's advocate of morality.

Anecdote: Famous for the *argument from queerness*; argued morality is a human construct.

Verification Hack: Declares everything meaningless but still plays anyway. You can ignore him... unless you're Nietzsche, in which case you've already won (he's obviously a Nihilist already—let him process, then gloat).



SLAVOJ ŽIŽEK

“Ideology is not simply a set of ideas, but a way we misperceive reality itself.”

Category	Score
Influence	59
Quote-ability	86
Clarity	18
Subversiveness	92
Brevity	38
Mind Explosion Index	83



1949 -; SI

Tagline: Makes Lacan, Marx, and pop culture collide in one wild lecture.

Anecdote: Analyses ideology, capitalism, and culture, using films, politics, and jokes to shock audiences into questioning assumptions.

JACQUES DERRIDA

“Every text carries its own undoing within it.”

Category	Score
Influence	76
Quote-ability	84
Clarity	55
Subversiveness	94
Brevity	42
Mind Explosion Index	85



1930 - 2004; FR

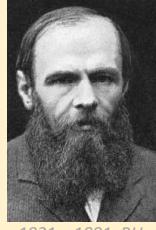
Tagline: Deconstructs everything — even your coffee table books.

Anecdote: Developed deconstruction, showing how texts undermine themselves; critics both revere and hate him for making meaning slippery.

FYODOR DOSTOYEVSKY

“Man is a mystery. It needs to be unravelled, and if you spend your whole life unravelling it, don't say that you have wasted time.”

Category	Score
Influence	80
Quote-ability	88
Clarity	70
Subversiveness	80
Brevity	52
Mind Explosion Index	84



1821 - 1881; RU

Tagline: Explores guilt, freedom, and the dark side of the soul.

Anecdote: Through novels like *Crime and Punishment* and *The Brothers Karamazov*, probed morality, psychology, and faith, influencing existentialists and modern ethics.

ALBERT CAMUS

“The only way to deal with an unfree world is to become so absolutely free that your very existence is an act of rebellion.”

Category	Score
Influence	73
Quote-ability	87
Clarity	75
Subversiveness	82
Brevity	60
Mind Explosion Index	81



1913 - 1960; FR

Tagline: Finds meaning in the absurd without losing your cool.

Anecdote: Explored absurdism and rebellion in *The Myth of Sisyphus*, *The Stranger* and *The Fall*, showing how to live fully in a world without inherent meaning.

GAYATRI SPIVAK

“Can the subaltern speak?”

Category	Score
Influence	79
Quote-ability	82
Clarity	59
Subversiveness	95
Brevity	52
Mind Explosion Index	87



1942 -; IN

Tagline: Puts the spotlight on voices that power tries to silence.

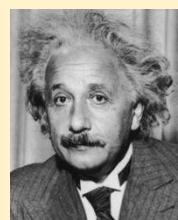
Anecdote: Focuses on global education, post-colonial perspectives, and ethical learning; encourages learners to confront complexity rather than oversimplify.

Subversiveness Hack: Reveals that Western philosophers are epistemically implicated in the oppression of the Other; if you're a white, Western philosopher, your 'Subversiveness' score doesn't count — unless you acknowledge the subaltern.

ALBERT EINSTEIN

“God does not play dice with the universe.”

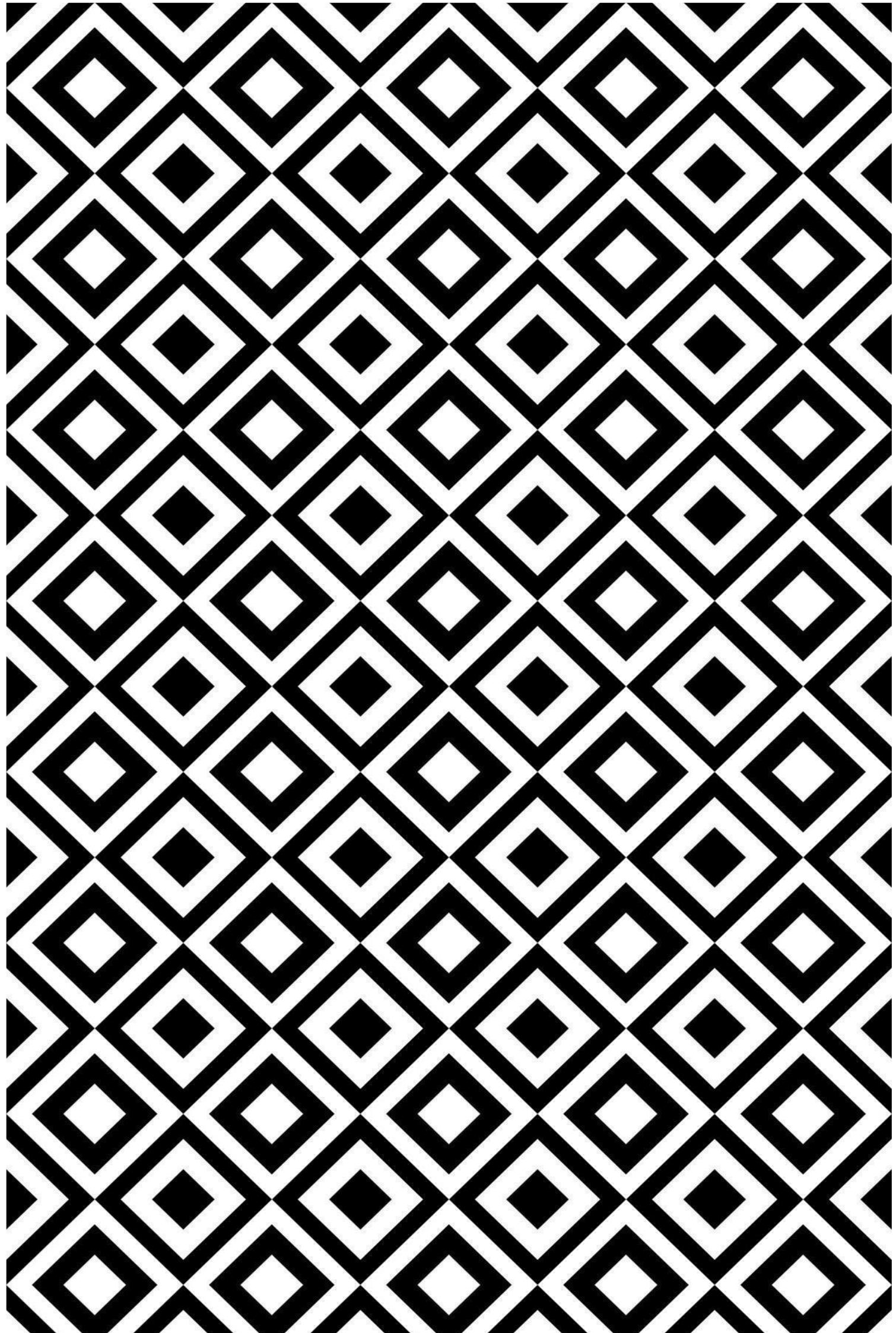
Category	Score
Influence	91
Quote-ability	88
Clarity	82
Subversiveness	76
Brevity	70
Mind Explosion Index	90



1879 - 1955; DE

Tagline: Physics genius who discovered special and general relativity. Time travel is possible!

Anecdote: Proposed the 'Hidden Variable Hypothesis', arguing that quantum mechanics is incomplete and underlying deterministic laws exist.



PETER SINGER

“Pain is bad, no matter who feels it.”

Category	Score
Influence	74
Quote-ability	78
Clarity	92
Subversiveness	83
Brevity	74
Mind Explosion Index	82



1946 -; AU

Tagline: Pushes utilitarianism to its uncomfortable conclusions.

Anecdote: Takes utilitarianism so seriously he'll calmly argue that donating to effective charities matters more than your new phone—and that your views on euthanasia should follow the same ruthless logic.

RICHARD DAWKINS

“We are survival machines—robot vehicles blindly programmed to preserve the selfish genes that built them.”

Category	Score
Influence	78
Quote-ability	92
Clarity	90
Subversiveness	73
Brevity	68
Mind Explosion Index	84



1941 -; GB

Tagline: Turns genes and memes into the real drivers of culture.

Anecdote: Argues that ideas behave like genes—“memes” that copy themselves—so even wildly false beliefs can spread and survive, not because they’re true, but because they’re catchy, comforting, or contagious.

G. E. MOORE

“Good is good, and that is the end of the matter.”

Category	Score
Influence	84
Quote-ability	79
Clarity	88
Subversiveness	76
Brevity	80
Mind Explosion Index	98



1873 – 1958; GB

Tagline: Points at “good” like you point at the colour yellow and tells you that you don’t understand what you’re on about.

Anecdote: Accuses others of the “naturalistic fallacy” for trying to define good in natural terms.

Mind Explosion Hack: Teams up with Hume and Ayer—Hume kills your “is→ought”; Ayre gets personal about your ‘meaning’; and Moore calls your ‘good’ risibly naturalistic. Your ethics is dead in the water. If you’re an ethicist, don’t bother.

RICHARD SWINBURNE

“A good inductive argument can still make belief in God rational.”

Category	Score
Influence	76
Quote-ability	70
Clarity	82
Subversiveness	60
Brevity	65
Mind Explosion Index	61



1934 -; GB

Tagline: Treats God’s existence like a carefully weighed probability.

Anecdote: Famously defends a God who can do anything but chooses to play by self-imposed rules—like an omnipotent being who deliberately sticks to the laws of nature and human freedom for the sake of a fair game.

GUSTAVO GUTIÉRREZ

“So you say you love the poor—tell me, what are you doing to stop their poverty?”

Category	Score
Influence	77
Quote-ability	80
Clarity	78
Subversiveness	91
Brevity	72
Mind Explosion Index	73



1928 -; PE

Tagline: Theology from the underside of history.

Anecdote: Often called the father of liberation theology, he insists that true faith demands a “preferential option for the poor,” blending Marxist social analysis with Christian commitment.

ROSEMARY RADFORD RUETHER

“If God is male, then the male is God.”

Category	Score
Influence	78
Quote-ability	88
Clarity	84
Subversiveness	91
Brevity	73
Mind Explosion Index	85



1936 – 2022; US

Tagline: Takes patriarchy straight on—starting with God.

Anecdote: A pioneer of feminist theology, she argues that traditional images of God and Church structures sacralise male dominance and calls for radically reimagining both.

