

# 1 The problem of knowledge

'The greatest obstacle to progress is not the absence of knowledge but the illusion of knowledge.'

**DANIEL BOORSTIN, 1914-**

'What men really want is not knowledge but certainty.'

**BERTRAND RUSSELL, 1872-1970**

'The familiar is not understood simply because it is familiar.'

**GEORG WILHELM FRIEDRICH HEGEL, 1770-1831**

'Common sense consists of those layers of prejudice laid down before the age of 18.'

**ALBERT EINSTEIN, 1879-1955**

'All men have opinions, but few think.'

**GEORGE BERKELEY, 1685-1753**

'Man is made by his belief. As he believes, so he is.'

**BHAGAVAD GITA, 500 BCE**

'To teach how to live without certainty, and yet without being paralysed by hesitation is perhaps the chief thing that philosophy in our age can still do for those who study it.'

**BERTRAND RUSSELL, 1872-1970**

'To know one's ignorance is the best part of knowledge.'

**LAO TSE, c.565 BCE**

'There are two ways to slide easily through life: to believe everything, or to doubt everything; both ways save us from thinking.'

**ALFRED KORZYBSKI, 1879-1950**

'A very popular error - having the courage of one's convictions; rather it is a matter of having the courage for an attack upon one's convictions.'

**FRIEDRICH NIETZSCHE, 1844-1900**

'By doubting we are led to enquire, and by enquiry we perceive the truth.'

**PETER ABÉLARD, 1079-1142**

'We know too much to be sceptics and too little to be dogmatists.'

**BLAISE PASCAL, 1623-62**

'It is the customary fate of new truths to begin as heresies and to end as superstitions.'

**T. H. HUXLEY, 1825-95**

## Linking Questions

