Famous Arab personalities

Taoufiq Cherkaoui
Tariq Ibn Ziyad was a Muslim Umayyad general who led the conquest of Hispania in 711.

This marked the beginning of 8 centuries of Moorish rule of Spain.

‘Gibraltar’ is the Spanish derivation of the Arabic name ‘Jabal Tariq’ meaning ‘mountain of Tariq’.
Gamal Abdel Nasser is seen as one of the most important political figures in the Arab World.

Egypt nationalised the Suez Canal and played a central role in anti-imperialist efforts in the Arab World.

Many in the general Arab population still view Nasser as a symbol of Arab dignity and freedom.

Taoufiq Cherkaoui
Yasser Arafat
Was a Palestinian leader and laureate of the Nobel Prize.

He was the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO)

Many Arabs viewed Arafat as a freedom fighter who symbolised their national aspirations.
Al Khawarizmi
Was a mathematician, astronomer, astrologer and geographer.

He is considered by many as the father of Algebra.

His contributions made a great impact on mathematics and language as well.

He worked most of his life in the House of Wisdom in Baghdad.
Ibn al Haytham
Was an Arab scientist who made significant contributions to the principles of physics, anatomy, astronomy, engineering, mathematics, medicine, ophthalmology, philosophy, psychology and science

He was nicknamed ‘The physicist’. He worked in Cairo in Egypt and Basra in Iraq

Taoufiq Cherkaoui
Ibn Sina
Was an Arab mathematician, psychologist, logician, palaeontologist, poet and scientist.

Ibn Sina made significant contributions to medicine. His most famous works are the Book of Healing, a vast philosophical and scientific encyclopaedia, and the Canon of medicine.
Umm Kulthum
Was an Egyptian singer, songwriter and actress.

At a very young she showed exceptional singing talent. She played the Oud (lute)

More than 3 decades after her death she is still regarded as the greatest female singer in Arab music

Taoufiq Cherkaoui
Nouhad Haddad
Famously known as Fairouz is a Lebanese singer

She is considered as the most famous living singer in the Arab World

She was born in ‘Cedar Mountain’ in Lebanon to a Catholic father and Maronite mother

Fairouz has a repertoire of 1500 songs. She has also been offered prestigious awards and titles over the years.

Taoufiq Cherkaoui
Ibn Khaldoun was born in North Africa in present day Tunisia.

Ibn Khaldoun was mathematician, astronomer, scholar, jurist, lawyer, theologian, military strategist, nutritionist, philosopher, social scientist and statesman.
Princess Salma
Salma Bennani is the Princess Consort of King Mohammed the 6th; she is originally from Fes in central Morocco.

Salma was educated in Rabat where she completed her engineering studies.

Salma is involved in campaigns raising awareness for AIDS and women’s rights and empowerment.
Queen Rania
Rania is the current queen of Jordan

Rania focused her energy at home and abroad on a variety of causes

She campaigns for education for Jordanian children, while abroad she advocates for global education
Omar Mukhtar
Was born in Tobruk in Libya in 1931

In 1912, he organised and, for nearly 20 years, led native resistance to Italian colonisation of Libya

The Italians captured and hanged him in 1931 under the orders of Mussolini

He is seen by many Arabs as the symbol of resistance and freedom

Taoufiq Cherkaoui
Omar Sharif was born Michael Demitri Shalhoub

Omar Sharif is an Egyptian actor who starred in Hollywood films. Most famously ‘Doctor Zhivago’ and ‘Funny Girls’

He has been nominated for an Academy Award and has won three Golden Awards
Abdel Halim Hafez is the most celebrated and popular singer in the Arab World.

Hafez was born in Egypt, he was also an actor and music teacher.

He is also widely known as *el-Andaleeb el-Asmar* (The Great Dark Skinned Nightingale).

He is widely regarded as the greatest male musician ever in the Arab world.

Taoufiq Cherkaoui
Naguib Mahfouz
Was an egyptian writer who won the 1988 Nobel Prize for Literature

He is regarded as one of the first contemporary writers of Arabic literature

He published over 50 novels and over 350 short stories, dozens of movies and five plays over a 70-year career

Naguib died in 2006 as a result of a fall

Taoufiq Cherkaoui
Taha Hussein was one of the most influential 20th century Egyptian writers and intellectuals, and a figurehead for the Arab Renaissance and the modernist movement in the Arab World.

Dr. Taha Hussein studied in Al-Azhar university and in France. He taught history, Greek and Roman literature in Cairo University.
Al-Razi wrote on Naft (naphta or petroleum) When choosing a site to build Baghdad's hospital, he hung pieces of fresh meat in different parts of the city. The location where the meat took the longest to rot was the one he chose for building the hospital.
Abbas Ibn Firnas
Was a Muslim Andalusian polymath. He was born in today’s Ronda, Spain. He was of Berber descent

Abbas designed a water clock and made corrective lenses.

He is known for an early attempt at flying. Abbas' glider flight is considered by John Harding to be the first attempt at heavier-than-air flight in aviation history.

Taoufiq Cherkaoui