

SUMMARY: PHILOSOPHY INDUCTION TASKS – YEAR 11 into 12

TASK 1: Linked to the Epistemology unit

- Listen to the Audio File which provides you with an introduction to Epistemology and introduces you to Plato's analogy of the cave.
- Write an essay of approx. 750 words answering the question: "How useful is Plato's analogy of the cave?"
- You will need to carry out your own further research on this. There are lots of excellent websites for example:
<https://www.learning-history.com/platos-cave-allegory-of-the-cave/>
<https://www.slideshare.net/PhilosophicalInvestigations/assessing-plato-a2>
- Tip: make sure you answer the question set. Rather than simply describe Plato's analogy the question is asking you to evaluate how useful it is. Therefore, you will need to consider ways in which it is useful (strengths) and ways in which it is not useful (weaknesses), before reaching your final conclusion.

Task 2: Linked to the Moral Philosophy unit

- Read the Ethics chapter (PDF attachment).
- Complete all of the tasks listed in the chapter, on pages 4- 5, 6,7, 8-9.
- Come to the first lesson being ready to discuss your answers.

Extension: Looking for a further challenge?

- Read the novel 'Sophie's World' - it will give a strong knowledge and skill base to start the course with.
- Write a summary of which part/aspect of the book you found most interesting and your reasons why

Other useful things to do:

Watch the films 'The Truman Show' and 'The Matrix' as they link to the nature of reality and knowledge which will be useful for the first unit on Epistemology.

Read the news: ethical dilemmas are discussed in the news every day – think about the dilemmas and the strengths of the different arguments being discussed; reflect on your opinion and your reasoning; come up with interesting questions you could ask to explore the issues further.

Discuss with anyone who will listen, any or all of the following questions: What is the nature of reality and existence? Do we have a soul? Has science disproved religion? Does God exist? Do miracles happen? How do we know anything? How can we know what is right and wrong? How can we best decide what is good and bad? Are morals just what are right for me or are they the same for all people? What did Socrates mean when he argued that "the unexamined life is not worth living" and was he right?

Any Questions? Please get in touch with Mrs Ideson – jideson@ccs.northants.sch.uk