

## A Level Religious Studies

### Summer Reading

#### Compulsory:

Read '*Sophie's World*' by Jostein Gaarder. Using this book:

- Make a timeline of the history of Philosophy
- Were there any philosophical arguments which you agreed with? Why?
- Were there any you disagreed with? Why?

#### Choose between:

- Watch the film 'The Matrix'
- In at least 1000 words explore in an essay the arguments for and against taking the red or blue pill before reaching your own justified conclusion.

Things to include:

Is it better to live in blissful ignorance?

Is it better to know the truth even if that is painful?

In your experience are people honest with themselves or do we hide painful truths?

Is there one truth for everyone, or is it more subjective than that?

-Your essay is called

**"Should we choose the red or blue pill?"**

#### **OR**

- Watch the film 'The Minority Report'
- In at least 1000 words, explore in an essay the arguments for and against punishing criminals for the crimes you know that they are going to commit - before they actually commit the crime. Your essay must include your own justified conclusion.

Things to include:

Does it benefit the rest of society to punish criminals before they can do harm?

Do you think that we can predict who the criminals in society will be?

Do criminals freely choose to commit crimes or are they victims of their own circumstances?

Your essay is called:

**“ If we know that somebody is going to commit a crime  
should we punish them before they have a chance to  
cause harm to others”**