

A-Level Philosophy and Ethics Work

Welcome to the Philosophy and Ethics department. The majority of you will not have studied philosophy before. However, all of you should be familiar with ethics from your RPL GCSE. For example, questions about how we should treat animals and whether euthanasia is acceptable are ethical questions. Philosophy is equally as fascinating and impacts how we live our lives. It deals with questions like: Does God exist (how do we know) and Do we really have Free Will?

As an introduction to your A-level we would like you to do some research. The tasks below must be completed before your first Philosophy and Ethics lesson in September, please bring the work with you.

You can complete them in any appropriate format you would like to use e.g. power point presentation, short essay (approx. 500 words), podcast etc.

You can complete them in any order.

TASKS:

1. Research the different categories of philosophy and ethics. For example in philosophy looking at the question of whether or not God exists is one category. What are some others? In ethics how we treat animals is one area of ethical debate, what are some others? Detail as many as you can.
2. Which of these categories are you most interested in and why? How would you answer the philosophical/ethical dilemma you identified in task 1? What is your reasoning?

3. Research and create a presentation on the philosophical/ethical question you are interested in (the one you identified in task 2).
You must include:
Details of the question
Different ways the questions are answered, include the work of philosophers and ethicists.
Evaluation of these answers.
Your own opinion, with justification.
4. Create a timeline of famous philosophers. Include their dates (birth and death) and a one line summary of their main philosophy.
5. Philosophy in film. There are many films which contain philosophical and ethical themes eg. the Matrix, Inception, Sophie Choice etc. Pick one and create a powerpoint to explain it's links to philosophy/ethics. You will be sharing this with the class in September so please include lots of detail and images/clips from your film if possible.

Any questions please feel free to ask Mrs Axe, caxe@hrs.education or Mr. McGrath dmcgrath@hrs.education

Have fun!