



RS – Philosophy & Ethics

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Overview

In order to prepare for the start of Year 12 Philosophy & Ethics, and familiarise yourself with some of the content and skills needed for A-Level, we would like you to complete the following tasks before we start in September.

Activity

Independent Study Tasks:

Task-1

Background Knowledge on Ethics

Obtain a basic background knowledge of the workings of Ethics.

This will complement the work explored in your Ethics taster session and will help you with the first couple of weeks' course, especially.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p003hyc8>



Relativism

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss relativism; a philosophy with no absolute truths.

From this, you should be able to explain what relativism and absolutism is and be able to offer some strengths and weaknesses of both.

Task- 2

Some Philosophical & Ethical Ideas

Choose a 45 minute podcast from the below options to listen to.

During the podcast, write down three questions you have. Once finished, research around your questions to try to answer them.

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01f0vzr>



Philosophy - In Our Time - BBC Radio 4

www.bbc.co.uk

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss republicanism, despotism and the separation of powers.

Task – 3
Getting (and staying) Uptodate with Ethical Developments

Find a news website you trust and will use to keep up to date with the news in Year 12; this will be a minimum expectation of the course.
The Andrew Marr Show – BBC, Sunday Morning – Senior politicians interviewed by Andrew Marr
Question Time – BBC, Thursday Evening – Political debate with a live studio audience
The News- BBC/ITV/Channel 4/Sky News – It is important to watch a range of channels.
BBC News – Ethics

Task-4
Reading

Summer Reading

Take this list to your local library and they will be able to get the books for you.

Philosophy: Themes - Julian Baggini

Palgrave Macmillan 2002

ISBN-10: 033396487X

ISBN-13: 978-0333964873

Being Good: A Short Introduction to Ethics - Simon Blackburn

Oxford 2002

ISBN-10: 0192853775

ISBN-13: 978-0192853776

The Puzzle of Ethics - Peter Vardy

ISBN-10: 0006281443

ISBN-13: 978-0006281443

The Thinkers Guide to Evil - Peter Vardy

ISBN-10: 1903816335

ISBN-13: 978-1903816332

For Your Information

Films to get you thinking about themes in Philosophy & Ethics



Film	Philosophical/Ethical Themes	Questions to think about
Alive	Ethics and morality	How far would you go to survive?
The Truman Show	Reality, Free will and determinism	What is real?
I, Robot	Consciousness and Morality	What is a moral being?
The Matrix	Dualism, Consciousness, Existence	What is real? What do we know?
Being John Malkovich	Personal Identity	What makes me, me?
Little Buddha	Reincarnation, Life of the Buddha	What happens after I die?
Dogma	Christian Doctrine	Is religion fact?
The Adjustment Bureau	Free Will and of immaterial beings	What causes events to happen?
Constantine	Demonology, Life after Death	Is there an 'immaterial'?
Bruce Almighty	Religious Experience	What is God like?
Inception	Skepticism,	What is reality?
Inherit the Wind	Atheism	What dictates our beliefs?

Please complete the set tasks by September.