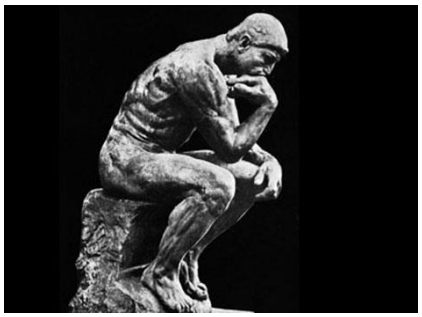
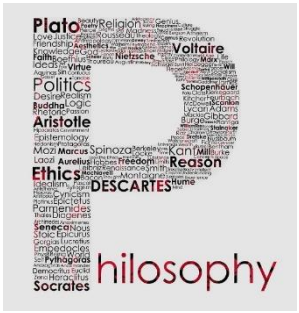


A Level Philosophy Transition task

Throughout the A level you will need to read the set texts on the anthology list. You will be given an anthology reader in your taster session.

Follow this link to find the set texts for A level Philosophy: http://www.aqa.org.uk/resources/philosophy/as-and-a-level/philosophy/teach/resource-list



Transition task 1: Read the following texts and complete the tasks underneath for each (if you finish these you can read the others on the list too- the more the better!):

Epistemology

- Russell, B (1912), The Problems of Philosophy Chapters 1, 2, 3
- Berkeley, George (1713), Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous
- Hume, D (1748), An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Section 2 and Section 4
- Locke, J (1690), An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Book 1 (esp. Chapter 2), Book 2 (esp. Chapters 1, 2, 8 and 14), Book 4 (esp. Chapter 11)

Moral Philosophy

- Bentham, Jeremy (1789), Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation, Oxford, Clarendon Press- Chapter 1 (The Principle of Utility) and Chapter 4 (Measuring Pleasure and Pain)
- Mill, John Stuart (1863), Utilitarianism- Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5
- Smart, J J C, Williams, B, Utilitarianism: for and against, 1973- Chapter 2 (Act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism) and Chapter 3 (Hedonistic and non-hedonistic utilitarianism)
- Kant, I, Foundations of the metaphysics of morals, 1785- Chapters 1 and 2
- Foot, P, Morality as a system of hypothetical imperatives, 1972- Vol 81, issue 3, 305–316.

For each reading complete the following questions for each text:

1. What are the key messages in this reading?
2. What is the philosopher arguing?
3. Quotes from reading
4. CHALLENGE- Do you agree with the philosopher? Justify your answer? Which philosophers would disagree with them?

If you finish the reading tasks have a go at the following:

Transition task 2: Using academic sites (suggestions below) find the definitions of these philosophical terms and make a glossary:

- Epistemology, realism, idealism, ontology, indirect realism, solipsism, direct realism, sufficient, tripartite definition of knowledge, ability knowledge, acquaintance knowledge, propositional knowledge, reliabilism, infallibilism, empiricism, rationalism, innatism, tabula rasa, simple concepts, complex concepts, universals, intuition, synthetic, analytic, inductive, deductive, a priori, a posteriori, contingent, necessary, scepticism, metaphysics, qualia, epiphenomenalism, substance dualism, property dualism, physicalism, hard behaviourism, soft behaviourism, identity theory functionalism, eliminative materialism, proposition, inference, utilitarianism, deontology, virtue ethics, duty, categorical imperative, virtue, eudaimonia, moral realism, moral anti-realism, cognitivism, non-cognitivism, naturalism, error theory, non-naturalism, emotivism, prescriptivism, cosmological arguments, teleological arguments, ontological arguments.

Academic sites:

- British Philosophical Association (BPA)
- EpistemeLinks
- Internet encyclopedia of philosophy
- Stanford encyclopedia of philosophy