**Philosophy and Ethics Bridging Task**

Dear Y11 student,

Congratulations on choosing to study Philosophy and Ethics at A Level. You are going to LOVE it! Please complete **at least two** of the activities from **each section** below and have them ready to hand in and discuss when you come back after the summer. So, that’s **at least six activities in total** which you need to complete. This course has three 2 hour exams at the end of Year 13 – one in Philosophy, one in Ethics and one in Religion, which is why you need to do two activities from each section below. If you have any issues, please email me at [ll@longbenton.org.uk](mailto:ll@longbenton.org.uk).

You should work steadily on these activities and not try to rush through them and ‘get them over with’. Each single activity should take you around 1-2 hours. In total, your bridging work of six activities should therefore take you around 6-12 hours.

**Section 1: Philosophy Activities – Complete any TWO activities from this section.**

1. Make a presentation in whatever way you like (e.g. mind-maps, PowerPoint slides, Word document, recording a video of yourself…) about the philosophy key words below.
   * **Philosophy**
   * **Metaphysics**
   * **Epistemology**
   * **Logic**
   * **Logical fallacy**
   * **Reason**
   * **Empiricism**
   * **Rationalism**
   * **A priori**
   * **A posteriori**
   * **Syllogism**
   * **Predicate**
   * **Tautology**
   * **Cosmological**
   * **Teleological**
   * **Ontological**
2. Make a presentation in whatever way you like (as above) about the three key thinkers below. Include biographical information and some of their philosophical ideas.
   * **Plato**
   * **Aristotle**
   * **Rene Descartes**
3. Make a presentation (as above) on one of these philosophical arguments which we will look at over the next two years. Include critiques of the arguments and key thinkers who either support or criticise the arguments.
   * **The teleological argument** (try to refer to both the original and modern reformulations of this argument)
   * **The cosmological argument**
   * **The ontological argument**
4. Read *Meditations on First Philosophy* by **Rene Descartes**. You can search and read this text online if you don’t want to find a book copy of it. Take some notes on what Descartes is trying to say and your own thoughts on his ideas.
5. If you want a challenge, read the original text of one of the arguments we will study – the ontological argument. You do not need to know the original text for the exam but it would be interesting to see what you make of it. Read and take notes (including your opinions) on *The Proslogion* by Anselm of Canterbury. Like Descartes’ Meditations, you can find this text in PDF form online.
6. Either read the original books, or read online summaries of these **Richard Dawkins** books: *The God Delusion*, *The Blind Watchmaker* and The *Selfish Gene*. If you can find a cheap copy from Amazon, they’re well worth a read and their ideas inform a lot of our study over the next two years (though you don’t need to have read the original texts for your exam).
7. Write 500 words on why you are interested in the subject of philosophy.

**Section 2: Ethics Activities – pick any TWO activities from this section.**

1. Make a presentation in whatever way you like (e.g. mind-maps, PowerPoint slides, Word document, recording a video of yourself…) about the ethics key words below.
   * **Ethics**
   * **Metaethics**
   * **Normative ethics**
   * **Applied ethics**
   * **Deontic ethics**
   * **Areatic ethics**
   * **Deontological ethics**
   * **Teleological ethics**
   * **Divine law**
   * **Human law**
   * **Natural law**
   * **Utilitarianism**
   * **Situation ethics**
2. Make a presentation in whatever way you like (as above) about the three key thinkers below. Include biographical information and some of their ethical ideas.
   * Thomas Aquinas (and natural law)
   * Immanuel Kant (and deontological ethics)
   * Joseph Fletcher (and situation ethics)
3. Research and present on **one** of the ethical situations below. As with the other tasks, your presentation can be in the form of an essay, a PowerPoint presentation, a mind-map – anything you like, as long as you have something to submit to the teacher and discuss with your class in September. You should include your own opinions on the cases.
   * **Euthanasia, with a focus on the case of Diane Pretty (1958-2002).**
   * **Euthanasia, with a focus on the case of Tony Bland (1970-1993).**
   * **Business ethics, with a focus on the case of The Great Dock Strike of 1889.**
   * **Business ethics, with a focus on whistleblowing and the case of Lance Armstrong.**
4. Research and present (in any way you like) on the topic of sexual ethics. Include the following thinkers and ideas in your presentation:
   * **Marriage as a sacrament or covenant**
   * **Sex outside of marriage**
   * **Sexuality**
   * ***Humanae Vitae* on human relationships**
   * **Natural law and sexual ethics**
   * **Secularism and sexual ethics**
5. Write 500 words on why you are interested in the subject of ethics.

**Section 3: Religion Activities – Pick any TWO from this section**

1. Make a presentation in whatever way you like (as above) about the three key thinkers below. Include biographical information and some of their ideas on God, religion and human nature.
   * **St Augustine of Hippo**
   * **John Hick**
   * **David Hume**
2. Make a presentation (as before) on the key words below.
   * **The Fall**
   * **Original Sin**
   * **Enlightenment (as a period in history) / Post-Enlightenment**
   * **Eschatology**
   * **Theology**
   * **Religious pluralism**
   * **Patriarchy (in relation to religion)**
3. Research and present on how Karl Marx relates to religion AND how liberation theology relates to Marxist ideas.
4. Research and present on Mary Daly and explain your opinions on her ideas.
5. Research and present on Dietrich Bonhoeffer and explain your opinions on his ideas.

**Extra Activities – You Don’t Have To Do These, But They’re So Ace, You’ll Probably Want To!**

**If you like, you can replace one of the activities from the six you’ve chosen from above with one of these.**

* Read a novel which raises big metaphysical, philosophical and ethical questions and be prepared to hand in some notes on your thoughts on it after the summer. Here are some suggestions (you may have your own ideas and will ignore these – that’s great): *Sophie’s World* by Jostein Gaarder, *Through A Glass, Darkly* by Jostein Gaarder*, Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Philip K Dick, *The End of Mr Y* by Scarlett Thomas, *More Than This* by Patrick Ness and *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel. Jodi Picoult novels are excellent for if you want something very easy to read but which deal with HUGE ethical issues. Ian McEwan novels also often deal with big ethical issues and are very engaging to read.
* Watch a film or TV series which raises big metaphysical or philosophical questions and be prepared to hand in some notes on your thoughts on it after the summer. Check with parents or carers first as to the appropriateness of the film or TV programme for you / check age ratings of individual series episodes / read an overview of the content online to check it will be appropriate for you. Here are some suggestions (you may have your own ideas and will ignore these – that’s great): TV series – The Good Place, Black Mirror, Westworld; Films – The Matrix, Minority Report, Lucy, Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind, The Truman Show, 1984, The Box.
* Be prepared to talk about metaphysical, philosophical and ethical themes in your own favourite novels, TV programmes or films – even ones you loved when you were little. For example, I personally find The Rainbow Fish very problematic – an unpopular view, I know – and I would love to hear similar views from you!