



Summer Tasks July 2020

Religious Studies

So, you think you would like to study: _____

Summer Task Title / Instructions:

Consider the question:

What is real?

1. Explain Plato's analogy of the cave.
2. What does Plato suggest is real?
3. Explain Aristotle's 4 causes.
4. What does Aristotle say about reality?
5. Are there any ethical rules that are true for all times and places?
6. Explain the Tibetan Wheel of Life.
7. What does Buddhism say about the universe?
- (8. What might a Christian say about reality?)
9. What is your conclusion on 'what is real'?

Each question needs about 200 words – some may need more. Question 8 is optional.

Suggested Additional Reading:

NB: There are two PDF files on the website to help you with Plato and Aristotle, while for Buddhism one of the best websites is www.Buddhanet.net – search for the Buddhist Wheel of Life.

If you struggle to understand all of this, don't worry – we will be covering the topics more fully during Year 12, but we want everyone to have a go at explaining the issues. Come with your questions.

For Ethics keep up to date with current news stories, looking out for the ethical issues and decisions being made. Use the BBC website or similar reliable news source. Take notice of decisions made by various businesses in the current crisis, and be aware of issues around the world, not just in the UK or Europe.

Watching the film 'Schindler's List' would also be useful.

For Philosophy try 'Sophie's World' but don't worry if you can't understand it all!

For Buddhism try the autobiography of the 14th Dalai Lama, or Siddhartha by Herman Hesse.

Other suggested background reading:

Sophie's World – Jostein Gaarder

Understand the Philosophy of Religion – Teach Yourself – Mel Thompson
The Puzzle of Ethics – Peter Vardy
Articles on the www.Buddhanet.net website.

Suggested Visit:

India, Thailand or Tibet would be great for the Buddhism... assuming that is beyond your budget (!) there are Buddhist Centres in Cambridge and Norwich. Both have websites telling you when they are open and giving information about visits. The British Museum in London also has a good collection of Buddhist artefacts.

Please submit the task, as well as a copy of the reading log, to your teacher on the first lesson in September. Feel welcome to do multiple summer tasks if you are unsure on what subjects to study.