



Summer Tasks July 2024

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. Any problems / questions e mail a.dennis@springwoodhighschool.co.uk

Suggested Additional Reading, with further suggestions for films / books listed separately.

NB: There are two PDF files on the website to help you with Plato and Aristotle; 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 cover 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, 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:

Understand the Philosophy of Religion – Teach Yourself – Mel Thompson

The Puzzle of Ethics – Peter Vardy

Articles on the www.Buddhanet.net website.

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.