



Transition Work for RPE

Task 1: Philosophy of Religion – Independent Research Task

1. **Create a timeline of philosophers.** You should include - Plato, Aristotle, Anselm, Aquinas, Hume, Hick, Swinburne, Ayre, and Wittgenstein. For each philosopher, give his dates and a summary of the philosophical theory he postulates.

2. **Summarise Plato's analogy of the cave.** You can read the original text here:

<http://classics.mit.edu/Plato/republic.8.vii.html>

Or watch an animated version here:

<https://youtu.be/1RWOpQXTItA?feature=shared>

Describe what Plato says and give an interpretation of the message of this analogy. Consider what Plato is trying to say about the human mind, society, education.

Task 2: Religion and Ethics – Comprehension and application of theory task

1. **Research the theory of utilitarianism and make a mind map of your research.** Make sure you include a) Who founded it b) How it works c) Your judgement - do you think it's an effective normative ethical theory? Why / why not?

2) **Watch this video about the thought experiment known as the 'trolley problem':**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOpf6KcWYyw>

If a utilitarian had to make this ethical dilemma, what would they decide? How would they justify their answer? Write down your response.

Task 3: Further resources – wider reading and podcasts

1. **The Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy.** This is an online resource which organises scholars from around the world in philosophy and related disciplines to create and maintain an up-to-date reference work. It can be found here:

<https://plato.stanford.edu/>

2. **Crash Course.** This is a YouTube channel started by John and Hank Green in association with PBS, the American public broadcast service. These are videos across subjects including science,

computer science, engineering, media, history, literature, drama, mythology, statistics, chemistry, physics, philosophy, psychology, sociology, business, biology and economics. Find it here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sc850jqMcwo>

3. **A History of Ideas from the BBC Radio 4 programme.** This is another collection of videos on YouTube. The series answers big questions answered and explains big theories in under 2 minutes from the BBC Radio 4 programme – A History of Ideas. The videos were scripted by philosopher Nigel Warburton. Find it here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04bwydw>

5. **Philosophy Bites.** This is a great podcast. The site covers a range of topics, and you can even find interviews with leading philosophers. You can access it here:

<https://philosophybites.com/>

Lastly, some information about the course in case you'd like to look up any details. The specification we teach is produced by **AQA**. The **unit code is 7062** (A Level) and a full copy of this specification and other useful information is available at:

<https://filestore.aqa.org.uk/resources/rs/specifications/AQA-7062-SP-2016.PDF>

The course consists of two components:

1. Philosophy of Religion and Ethics

2. Christianity: Study of Religion and Dialogues

The examination is entirely exam based, and no coursework will be completed. Each component is worth 50% of the final grade.

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the course in September.

Complete your studies but enjoy your summer break too!