

A Level Philosophy Summer Task

As part of the course you look at ethical issues as well as core philosophical issues. Below are a variety of tasks to give you some background knowledge of some of the key areas we cover.

Task 1

The root of western Philosophy

I want you to find out about some of the key Greek philosophers who later influenced many of the philosophers who you will look at.

For each of the philosophers below can you please find out the following information;

- Mini biography which includes birth, death, where they were from, main key events in their life.
- Academic work they wrote (books, essays etc.)?
- Which branches of philosophy are they associated with?

Philosophers

- Socrates
- Plato
- Aristotle
- Epicurus

Task 2

Utilitarianism

One of the key ethical ideas you will look at is a theory called utilitarianism. Your second task is to research and find out the information below on utilitarianism and then present it in a form of your choice. You could produce a poster, power point, video, blog or any other way to show this information. These will be looked at/shown in the first few lessons of Philosophy in September so be prepared for others to see them!

What you need to include in your presentation;

- How was utilitarianism influenced by epicureanism?
- Who was Jeremy Bentham and what did he say utilitarianism is?
- Who was John Stuart Mill and how did he add to utilitarianism?
- What is the difference between act and rule utilitarianism?
- Would a utilitarian view allow us to use animal testing for medicine?
- Would a utilitarian view allow the government to bring in an assisted suicide law?

As you can see some of this is factual and some is asking you to understand and apply utilitarianism as an idea. For the last two points you may not come to one decision - this is fine, as long as you can explain why!

Here are some websites to help you and get you started!

<https://philosophyalevel.com/aqa-philosophy-revision-notes/>

http://www.alevelphilosophy.co.uk/handouts_ethics/UtilitarianismActsRulesPleasures.pdf

<https://www.sparknotes.com/philosophy/utilitarianism/summary/>