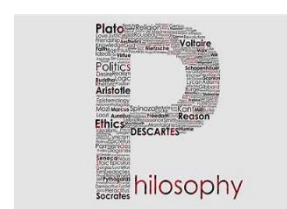


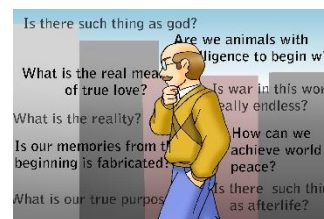
# Philosophy Summer Transition Task



Exam Board: AQA/ Specification: 7172

**Text books to purchase:** *AQA Philosophy for AS and A Level: Epistemology and Moral Philosophy*, by Haywood, Jones and Cardinal. It is a revision book.

**Specification link:** <http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/philosophy/as-and-a-level/philosophy-7172>



## Overview of philosophy at A-Level.

In philosophy you will have the opportunity to engage with big questions such as what is knowledge? What does good mean? What is mind? You will engage with complex texts, evaluating and analysing the arguments of philosophers and using their theories to construct and defend your own argument.

You will develop important skills such as critical thinking and reflective reading skills, analytic and problem-solving skills, being clear and precise in your writing, all of which will prepare you for many different areas of employment or further education.

But most of all, its interesting, will get you thinking, and you will delve into some of the most important questions confronting us today.

## Task 1: Morality

What makes an action good and an action evil?

Can an action ever be selfless?

Should we base our moral decisions on 1: The consequences of our actions, 2: Following laws and moral principles (rules), 3: making us a better person or 4: Producing the greatest amount of good for the most people? Explain your view giving reasons.

## Task 2: Philosophy of religion

1: Brainstorm as many attributes of God (what is God like?)

2: What characteristics do you think are essential when describing God? Give reasons for your answers.

3: What evidence have we got to suggest God exists?

4: What problems can you think of which might disprove God's existence?

### Task 3: Do we see objects as they really are?

Think of your mobile phone. What colour is it? When is it that colour? All the time, only when there is white light reflecting off it, or only when being seen? If its colour depends on being seen, is it *really* that colour?

Is colour more or less real than morality?

Explain your answer.

### Task 4: Identity and the mind body problem.

1. Draw a self- portrait and evaluate the importance of each part of your identity.
2. What if you went through a process of change, e.g. plastic surgery or had an accident which led to a physical or mental change, would you still be you?
3. Are the mind and body two separate entities, or are they the same and interconnected in some way? Should we treat them as the same thing or is one in charge of the other?

Think about: Does the body just house the mind? What is the self (you) and how is it related to the body and

## Wider Reading or viewing and Checklist

### Wider Reading or watching

Podcasts/blogs/websites

**Matrix**

**Sophie's world**, Jostein Gardner

[www.philosophersmag.com/games](http://www.philosophersmag.com/games)

**The Truman show**

**Animal Liberation** Peter Singer

[philosophybites.com/](http://philosophybites.com/)

**The Good place**

**The life of Pi**, Yan Martel

<http://philosophypages.com/>

**Inception**

**Under the net**, Iris Murdoch

<http://www.alevelphilosophy.co.uk/>

### Transition to A Level Philosophy checklist - will you be September-ready?

Item / task	Completed?
Complete summer transition tasks	
Buy text books / subject specific book	
Buy folders / dividers for each subject	
Download the specification for each subject and familiarise yourself with the outline of each course.	