

A Level Philosophy: Summer Transition Work

In the taster session we will look at some key debates and ideas in philosophy that we will be encountering over the next 2 years.

In the summer work you are going to select one problem of interest to you and through the viewing and reading start to develop your ideas as a philosopher.

Pick one of the topics below and complete the written tasks based on the reading.

Metaphysics of God

- 1) The Problem of Evil: Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/evil/>
- 2) Philosophy Vibe: The Problem of Evil: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FfjrJH9PNPA>

To read: 1.1 Relevant Concepts of God
 3.1 Arguments
 7 (7.1-7.5) Theodicies

Written work:

- a) Briefly summarise why some philosophers see the existence of evil as incompatible with the idea of God.
- b) What are your thoughts and reactions to the ideas outlined in 1.1 and 3.1?
- c) Which Theodicy do you find most convincing and why?
- d) Based on your reading and own ideas write a brief summary of your view on the question "Does the existence of evil disprove the existence of God?"

Epistemology

- 1) Internet Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <https://iep.utm.edu/knowledg/#H1>
- 2) Philosophy Vibe: Skepticism: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YHfLZzS57PE>
- 3)

To read:

- 1 Kinds of Knowledge
- 2 Knowledge as a Kind
- 3 Ways of Knowing
- 4 Sceptical Doubts About Knowing

Written work:

- a) Briefly summarise the kinds of knowledge. For each kind of knowledge give an example of when someone might think they know something but be mistaken.

- b) Explain why some philosophers are sceptics about our ability to ever “know” anything.
- c) Based on your reading and own ideas write a brief summary of your view on the question “Is it possible we know nothing?”

Philosophy of Mind

- 1) Stamford Encyclopedia of Philosophy: <https://plato.stanford.edu/entries/other-minds/#ConcProbOtheMind>
- 2) Philosophy Vibe: Solipsism and the Problem of Other Minds: [Solipsism and the Problem of Other Minds - YouTube](#)

To read:

- 1 (1.1-1.4) The (Traditional) Epistemological Problem
- 2 The Conceptual Problem of Other Minds

3)

Written work:

- a) Briefly summarise the philosophical problem of “other minds”.
- b) Explain the concept of solipsism.
- c) Based on your reading and your own ideas, write a brief summary of your view on the question “Is it possible that you are alone in the universe?”