



# Transition to Advanced Level

# PHILOSOPHY

## Contents:

- I. Suggested Reading List
- II. Reading List Tasks
- III. Written / Reflection Tasks
- IV. Essay Questions



## Suggested Reading List

- Baggini, J. *The Pig That Wants To Be Eaten*, Granta 2010
- Blackburn, S. *Think*, OUP 2001
- Camus, A. *The Outsider*, Penguin 2013
- Cohen, E. *101 Ethical Dilemmas*, Routledge 2007
- Craig, E. *Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction*, OUP 2002
- Doxiadis, A. and Papadimitriou, C. *Logicomix: An Epic Search for Truth*, Bloomsbury 2009
- Hall, E. *Aristotle's Way*, Vintage 2018
- Law, S. *The Philosophy Files*, Orion 2002; *The Outer Limits*, Orion 2003; *The Philosophy Gym*, Hodder Headline 2003
- Nagel, T. *What Does It All Mean?*, OUP 1987 (reprinted 2004)
- Patton, M. and Cannon, K. *The Cartoon Introduction to Philosophy*, Hill and Wang 2015
- Sandel, M. *Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do?* Penguin 2010
- Warburton, N. *A Little History of Philosophy*, Yale University Press 2012
- Warburton, N. *Philosophy: The Basics* (5th ed.), Routledge 2012
- The Blackwell Philosophy & Pop Culture Series... Philosophical spins on your favourite series and films [andphilosophy.com/books/](http://andphilosophy.com/books/)

## Reading List Tasks:

For each of the texts you read, summarise the key points in one of the following ways:

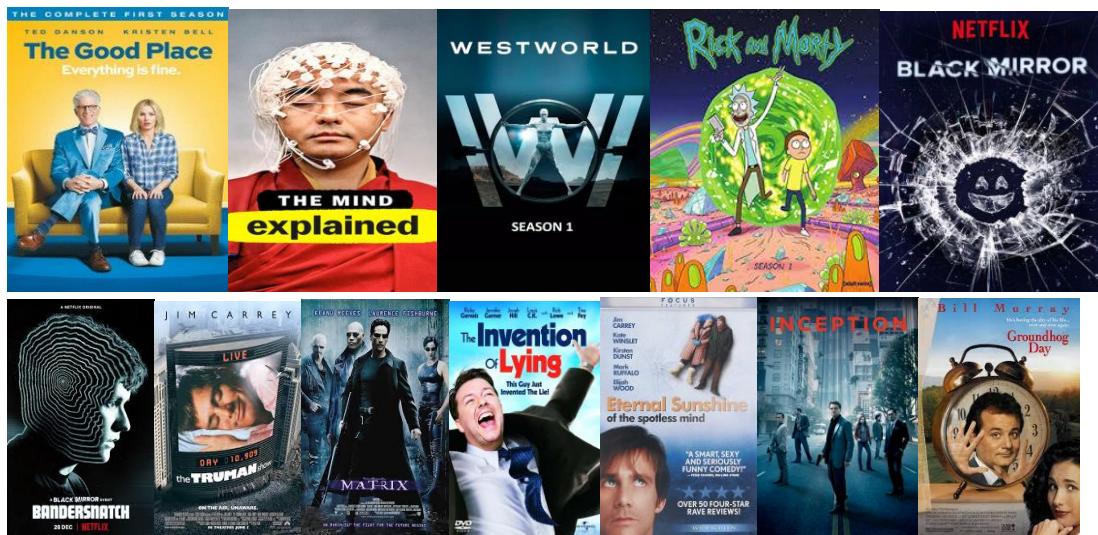
- Write a review of the book, outlining which were the most useful sections and whether you enjoyed the book/why/why not.
- List any key terms from the text in a vocabulary list, researching their meanings (if not clear from the text) and recording these. A dictionary of philosophy may help with this.
- Create a picture mind-map of the key ideas. Use doodles and images to illustrate these. For a guide to mind-mapping, see this short video:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wLWV0XN7K1g>

## **Video Resources and Tasks:**

Watch the videos below, choosing one to focus on for your task. Write a list of discussion points/questions it raises. Choose (at least) one of your questions and draft at least three possible answers that might be given.

- [https://www.ted.com/talks/bethany\\_rickwald\\_and\\_hayley\\_levitt\\_would\\_you\\_opt\\_for\\_a\\_life\\_with\\_no\\_pain](https://www.ted.com/talks/bethany_rickwald_and_hayley_levitt_would_you_opt_for_a_life_with_no_pain) Would you opt for a life with no pain?
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/peter\\_singer\\_the\\_why\\_and\\_how\\_of\\_effective\\_altruism](https://www.ted.com/talks/peter_singer_the_why_and_how_of_effective_altruism) Ted Talk: Peter Singer: The Why and How of Effective Altruism.
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/damon\\_horowitz/transcript](https://www.ted.com/talks/damon_horowitz/transcript) Ted Talk by Damon Horowitz – We Need a Moral Operating System
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/damon\\_horowitz\\_philosophy\\_in\\_prison](https://www.ted.com/talks/damon_horowitz_philosophy_in_prison) Ted Talk: Philosophy in Prison
- [https://www.ted.com/talks/david\\_chalmers\\_how\\_do\\_you\\_explain\\_consciousness](https://www.ted.com/talks/david_chalmers_how_do_you_explain_consciousness) Ted Talk: David Chalmers. How do you explain consciousness.

## **Films/ TV:**



## **PODCAST Resources:**

Philosophy Bites – [philosophybites.com/](http://philosophybites.com/)

The Partially Examined Life – [partiallyexaminedlife.com](http://partiallyexaminedlife.com)

The Panpsychcast – [thepanpsychcast.com/panpsychcast2/](http://thepanpsychcast.com/panpsychcast2/)

Philosophize This – [philosophizethis.org/category/episode/](http://philosophizethis.org/category/episode/)

Making Sense with Sam Harris – [samharris.org/all-episodes/](http://samharris.org/all-episodes/)

Philosophy 24/7 – [philosophy247.org/](http://philosophy247.org/)

The Philosopher's Zone – [abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone/](http://abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone/)

BBC In Our Time: Philosophy – [bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gnn05](http://bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gnn05)

### **Thought Experiments:**

<http://www.philosophyexperiments.com/fatman/>

<http://moralmachine.mit.edu/>

<https://io9.gizmodo.com/9-philosophical-thought-experiments-that-will-keep-you-1340952809>

### **Carry out these activities:**

1. Write a written reflection of the moral questions that each one raises, and how you might respond to these.
2. Try to list your own “moral code” or “rules for life”. Include 5-10 elements.
3. Can you imagine any exceptions to your own “rules”?

### **Written/ Reflection Tasks:**

1. Consider your definitions of the following terms:
  - Truth
  - Reality
  - Good
  - Evil
  - Moral
  - God
  - Time

For each concept, try to argue against your own definition. Can you see any flaws in your ideas? How might they be criticised? What conclusions can you reach about *how we define these concepts?*

2. List *five* facts that you *know* to be true. For each one, explain *how* you know it to be true. Are any of your “facts” uncertain? What would have to happen to prove them irrefutably (without question)?
  
3. Create a fact file of the philosophers Plato, Aristotle and Kant. Include pictures, key facts and a brief outline of their philosophical ideas.
  
4. Choose a story from the news that includes one of the following themes:
  - Simnualted Killing
  - Euthanasia
  - Capital punishment
  - Humans’ treatment of animals

Write a response to the story, considering several different points of view.

### **Essay Questions**

- A. Write your own response to the following question:

“Without society, would there be moral rules?”

In your answer you should:

- Include a range of different opinions
- Conduct your own research to find possible answers from different fields of thinking (philosophy, psychology, sociology, religion, etc.)
- Justify your answer with a range of reasons
- Include examples to illustrate your point
- Reach a justified conclusion
- Include a bibliography to demonstrate your own research

- B. Write your own response to the following question:

“Is there such thing as objective truth?”

In your answer you should:

- Include a range of different opinions
- Conduct your own research to find possible answers from different fields of thinking (philosophy, psychology, sociology, religion, etc.)
- Justify your answer with a range of reasons
- Include examples to illustrate your point
- Reach a justified conclusion
- Include a bibliography to demonstrate your own research.

# FUTURE PHILOSOPHERS OF SEPTEMBER 2021



<b>Books</b>	<p><b>Physical books might be hard to find at the moment, but all of these are available as Kindle eBooks, which can be read on any phone/tablet/laptop with a free app</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 101 Ethical Dilemmas – Martin Cohen</li> <li>• Aristotle's Way – Edith Hall</li> <li>• Logicomix: An Epic Search for Truth</li> <li>• The Outsider – Albert Camus</li> <li>• The Pig That Wants to Be Eaten – Julian Baggini</li> <li>• Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do? – Michael Sandel</li> <li>• A Little History of Philosophy – Nigel Warburton</li> <li>• The Cartoon Introduction to Philosophy – Michael Patton and Kevin Cannon</li> <li>• The Blackwell Philosophy &amp; Pop Culture Series... Philosophical spins on your favourite series and films <a href="http://andphilosophy.com/books/">andphilosophy.com/books/</a></li> </ul>
<b>News</b>	<p><a href="http://theguardian.com/world/philosophy">theguardian.com/world/philosophy</a></p> <p><a href="http://lse.ac.uk/philosophy/department-blog/">lse.ac.uk/philosophy/department-blog/</a></p> <p><a href="http://ethicssage.com/">ethicssage.com/</a></p> <p><a href="http://stephenlaw.blogspot.com/">stephenlaw.blogspot.com/</a></p> <p><a href="http://philosophynow.org/">philosophynow.org/</a></p> <p><a href="http://blog.practicalethics.ox.ac.uk/">blog.practicalethics.ox.ac.uk/</a></p> <p><a href="http://aphilosopher.drmcl.com/">aphilosopher.drmcl.com/</a></p>
<b>Films</b>	
<b>Podcasts</b>	<p>Philosophy Bites – <a href="http://philosophybites.com/">philosophybites.com/</a></p> <p>The Partially Examined Life – <a href="http://partiallyexaminedlife.com">partiallyexaminedlife.com</a></p> <p>The Panpsychcast – <a href="http://thepanpsychcast.com/panpsychcast2/">thepanpsychcast.com/panpsychcast2/</a></p> <p>Philosophize This – <a href="http://philosophizethis.org/category/episode/">philosophizethis.org/category/episode/</a></p> <p>Making Sense with Sam Harris – <a href="http://samharris.org/all-episodes/">samharris.org/all-episodes/</a></p> <p>Philosophy 24/7 – <a href="http://philosophy247.org/">philosophy247.org/</a></p> <p>The Philosopher's Zone – <a href="http://abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone/">abc.net.au/radionational/programs/philosopherszone/</a></p> <p>BBC In Our Time: Philosophy – <a href="http://bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gnn05">bbc.co.uk/programmes/p01gnn05</a></p>