



SAFFRON WALDEN
COUNTY HIGH SCHOOL

SWCHS SIXTH FORM SUMMER WORK

A Level Philosophy

TASK

Some Essential Philosophy Study Skills

If you have any queries regarding this work please email ecarne@swchs.net

Task

There are 2 tasks based around core skills and learning techniques we will use in Philosophy lessons

How will this work be used in lessons?

The listening task will be used in the first few weeks of the Moral Philosophy part of the course with Mrs Popple. The discussion task will be used in the first few weeks of the Epistemology part of the course with by Miss Carne.

How long will this task take?

2 hours

Philosophy summer work

Dear philosophers in training,

Well done for having selected a great course to study! Pure philosophy is a wonderful subject, but it is not an easy choice. Our summer work for you is preparing you in the core skills in philosophy so that the transition is smoothed.

Enjoy your summer and we look forward to welcoming you in September!

Miss Carne and Mrs Popple

Task 1: Active listening

Podcasts are an excellent resource for philosophy study. Philosophy Bites has a series that are short (under 20 minutes) so are excellent for short walks, bus journeys and waiting for friends. The link below from the Philosophy Bites website, will take you directly there, but these podcasts are also available from anywhere you usually get podcasts which may improve portability.

This podcast focuses on the Moral Philosophy part of the course, considering what it means for a moral theory to be normative. **As you are listening note down ideas you think are important, and any questions you have ready to bring into your moral philosophy lesson. This will form part of one of your first lessons.**

<https://philosophybites.libsyn.com/john-skorupski-on-normativity> (Also available where you get your podcasts if this link doesn't work)

Task 2: Active Discussion & Active writing

Active discussion is obviously a hard one to set if you are potentially not going to be interacting with others on your course before September! As such this task is asking for some active writing, which will then feed into a discussion in some of your first lessons in Epistemology. Epistemology is the study of what we can truly know.

Below are two copies of the same painting by Giuseppe Arcimboldo. Arcimboldo was an Italian artist from the 1500's. He was a master at tricking the eye reimagining everyday objects such as fruit, vegetables, flowers, books and even fish to create the illusion of faces. Arcimboldo arranged the produce with precision that the painting still gave a very recognizable likeness to the actual subject of the painting. This painting can be displayed either way up, one way it appears to represent a bowl of vegetables, the other, a face.



Using the image as an inspiration for your own thoughts, please write no more than 500 words (handwritten, which will be about a side of A4, or typed) about a philosophical topic. This could be about how our senses deceive us, what counts as being 'real', whether symbolism is helpful, or indeed anything else that you are inspired to write on. This can be prose or in notes form. If you wish you can research this topic further, but we do not require this. **This will be fed into a discussion in your epistemology lessons in September.**

Extras

If you are looking for some extra support with Philosophy The following books are good starting points

Baggini, J, Fosl, PS, *The philosopher's toolkit: a compendium of philosophical concepts and methods*, 2nd Edition, Wiley-Blackwell, 2010

Bruce, M, Barbone, S, *Just the arguments: 100 of the most important arguments in western philosophy*, Wiley-Blackwell, 2002.

Warburton, N, *Philosophy: the essential study guide*, Routledge, 2004