

Year 12 Independent Study Framework: Philosophy

Term/Week	Essay Questions	Wider Reading (see also the OCR syllabus)	Topics to be reviewed (use also your copy of the syllabus)	Essay/ model answer to review
1:2	<p>'There is no knowledge so certain that no one can doubt it'. To what extent do you believe that this view is correct?</p>	<p>Core textbook- pages 2-15. Any page numbers in bold refer to the core textbook – Religious Studies, Bk 1: M B Wilkinson <i>Epistemology: a beginner's guide</i> – R M Martin <i>Knowledge: a short introduction</i> – Jennifer Nagel <i>What is this thing called knowledge?</i> Duncan Pritchard</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The four branches of Philosophy: • (i) Logic • (ii) Epistemology • (iii) Syllogism • (iv) Metaphysics • Sense Experience and its Problems • Study advice and making notes – page 11+ 	<p>Read the response to the essay question on page 15 of core textbook.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annotate it indicating what you would do to improve the essay 2. Use what you have done alongside your reading to produce an essay plan to the question 3. Write your essay to the question given by staff
1:3/4	<p>'The Simile of the Cave tells us nothing about reality.' Discuss</p> <p align="center">OR</p> <p>To what extent can it be argued that education is about remembering, not learning?</p> <p align="center">OR</p> <p>How convincing is Plato's idea of the Form of the Good?</p>	<p><i>Plato: A Short introduction</i> – Julia Annas <i>Republic: Books VI and VII</i> Open Society and its Enemies: Karl Popper</p> <p><i>Socrates Had it Coming</i> http://christian-identity.net/linstedt/socrates.html</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ancient Greece background to Plato cf Pythagoras and Heraclitus • Understanding of Reality • (i) The Forms • (ii) Hierarchy of the Forms • (iii) The Simile of the Divided Line • (iv) The Simile of the Cave • Objections of the Theory of the Forms: Aristotle • Other objections • Study Advice – page 25+ 	<p>Read the response to the essay question on page 27 of core textbook.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annotate it indicating what you would do to improve the essay 2. Use what you have done alongside your reading to produce an essay plan to the question <p>Write your essay to the question given by staff</p>

<p>1:4/5</p>	<p>'Aristotle's theory of the four causes explains nothing.' Discuss</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>To what extent has modern cosmology made Aristotle's views on the universe redundant? Discuss</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>'Aristotle's Prime Mover is an unconvincing construction to fill a hole in his theory.' Discuss</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>'Aristotle's understanding of the world is more convincing than that of Plato.' Discuss</p>	<p><i>Aristotle: a very short introduction</i> – Jonathan Barnes <i>Nichomachean Ethics Book 1 Explanation and Teleology in Aristotle's Science of Nature</i> – Mariska Leunissen <i>Aristotle in Plain and Simple English</i> - Bookcaps</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Who was Aristotle – background data • The Philosophical views of Aristotle – empiricist • The Four Causes – Arete • The prime Mover • The Form of the Good • Objections to Aristotle • Study Advice – page 37+ 	<p>Read the response to the essay question on page 39 of core textbook.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annotate it indicating what you would do to improve the essay 2. Use what you have done alongside your reading to produce an essay plan to the question <p>Write your essay to the question given by staff</p>
<p>1:5/6</p>	<p>Assess whether substance dualism is a convincing approach to questions of body and soul Discuss</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>To what extent is Plato's belief in a separate body and soul convincing? Discuss</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>'It makes more sense to say 'I am a body' than to say 'I have a body'.' Discuss</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>'Religious faith demands belief in a separate body and Soul.' Discuss</p>	<p><i>Phaedo</i> by Plato <i>Nichomachean Ethics, Bk 1 chp 13 and Bk VI</i> <i>'Skinner Skinned, Brainstorms'</i> D C Dennett <i>'Consciousness explained.'</i> D C Dennett <i>'What do we think With.'</i> P Geach <i>'The Concept of the Mind.'</i> G Ryle <i>'About Behaviourism.'</i> B F Skinner</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the Soul a thing? • Plato and the Soul • Aristotle and the Soul • Substance Dualism • Other views on the Mind-Body question • Materialism • Study advice – page 53+ 	<p>Read the response to the essay question on page 54 of core textbook.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Annotate it indicating what you would do to improve the essay 4. Use what you have done alongside your reading to produce an essay plan to the question <p>Write your essay to the question given by staff</p>
<p>1:6/7+ Will continue into second half of Autumn term</p>	<p>'There is no design in the universe.' Discuss</p> <p style="text-align: center;">OR</p> <p>To what extent is Aquinas' first cause argument</p>	<p><i>The Unknown God: Agnostic Essays</i> – Anthony Kenny <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i>-Brian Davies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Teleological Argument • Criticisms from Hume • Other Criticisms • Modern versions of the Design Argument • Aquinas' Cosmological Argument 	<p>Read the response to the essay question on page 79 of core textbook.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. Annotate it indicating what you

	<p>successful in proving that God exists?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>How true is it to say that only the existence of God would provide a sufficient explanation for the existence of the universe?</p> <p>OR</p> <p>'The universe is just there: it neither has or needs an explanation.' Discuss</p>	<p><i>Outward Forms, Inner Springs</i> – D Emmett</p> <p><i>Religion without Explanation</i> – D Z Phillips</p> <p><i>Theological Investigations</i> – K Rahner</p> <p><i>Principia Mathematica</i> – B Russell</p> <p><i>Philosophical Theology</i> – F R Tennant</p> <p><i>Systematic Theology</i> – P Tillich</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leibniz and the principle of Sufficient Reason • Objections to Arguments from Experience • Study advice – page 76+ 	<p>would do to improve the essay</p> <p>6. Use what you have done alongside your reading to produce an essay plan to the question</p> <p>Write your essay to the question given by staff</p>
1: Half Term	Make sure all work is reviewed an up to date			