

Summer Preparatory Tasks:

You are expected to complete the three tasks below over the summer in preparation for A Level Religious Studies. These tasks are based on the topics you will be studying in September.

Task One: Ethics

- Read the chapter on 'Absolutism and Relativism' in *Ethical Studies, Second Edition* (2001) by Bob Bowie (Nelson Thornes Ltd) and answer questions 1-5 on page 19.
- *Your baseline assessment in September will be based on this reading, so in addition to this reading, you may wish to do wider research on absolutism and relativism.*

Task Two: Philosophy

- Listen to the BBC podcast on Plato's Republic via the link below and answer the questions on the worksheet provided.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b08vwn6h> (40 mins)

- Podcast summary: *Is it always better to be just than unjust? That is the central question of Plato's Republic, discussed here by Melvyn Bragg and guests. Writing in 380BCE, Plato applied this question both to the individual and the city-state, considering earlier and current forms of government in Athens and potential forms, in which the ideal city might be ruled by philosophers. The Republic is arguably Plato's best known and greatest work, a dialogue between Socrates and his companions, featuring the allegory of the cave and ideas about immortality of the soul, the value of poetry to society, and democracy's vulnerability to a clever demagogue seeking tyranny.*
- You may wish to use your findings from this podcast for task three.

Task Three: Philosophy

- Create a profile (1-page minimum) on one of the ancient Greek philosophers below. Your profile should include dates, biographical details, key teachings and a list of philosophers who they have influenced.
 1. Socrates
 2. Plato
 3. Aristotle
- See below a list of websites where you can find the following information:
 - Internet Encyclopaedia of Philosophy (IEP) Accessible online: <https://www.iep.utm.edu/>
 - Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy (SEP) Accessible online: <https://plato.stanford.edu/>
 - The Panpsycast – A weekly 'informal and informative' philosophy podcast. Accessible online: <http://thepanpsycast.com/episodes-by-category/> (also available on Spotify and iTunes).
 - YouTube 'The School of Life Philosophy' then the name of your chosen philosopher and watch the first video. Each video is a 6 minute (approx.) summary.

Learning Outcomes:

As a result of these tasks, you should be able to...

- Understand the difference between moral relativism and moral absolutism
- Explain the main philosophical and ethical themes in Plato's *Republic*
- Describe the context and major teachings of one ancient Greek philosopher