



ROEDEAN
MOIRA HOUSE

Summer work for Philosophy and Ethics (Religious Studies A level)

This work will support you in preparing over the long summer for your journey into enlightenment! Please ensure you complete both sections.

Any concerns please email Mrs Barber obarber@moirahouse.co.uk

Philosophy

Take a brief journey through philosophy!

*This summer, you are to read 'Sophie's World' by Jostein Gaarder
(Translated by Paulette Møller)*

In brief: Fourteen-year-old Sophie Amundsen is eagerly looking forward to her 15th birthday. As she teeters on the brink of young adulthood and of losing her child's sense of wonder, the arrival of a mysterious letter jolts her wide awake. Jostein Gaarder's playful novel leads Sophie, and its readers, through a history of Western philosophy, scattering questions throughout and awakening, or reawakening, a curiosity and determination to find out more about the world and the way it works.

After reading this book, please answer the following questions....

1. How does Sophie's way of thinking change as she progresses through her course? Did you find your own way of thinking changing and if so how? Alberto explains that it is central to the course that Sophie understands the difference between a sophist and a philosopher. What is the difference and why is it so important?
2. Why is Lego 'the most ingenious toy in the world' (page 36)? What would Democritus have thought of it?
3. What is the basis of Socrates's philosophy?
4. How would you describe Plato's philosophy? What was the basis of his ideal state? What did Aristotle make of Plato's ideas? How did Aristotle's philosophy differ from Plato's?
5. What did you think of the book's conclusion?
6. How effective did you find Alberto's philosophy course? How well did you think Jostein Gaarder brought the subject alive by using the novel form?
7. How important is philosophy? How do you see it applied in the modern world?
8. Where does the world come from?
9. Who are you?

Ethics

Ethics is the second section of our course. To prepare for this, start by ensuring you are regularly reading a quality newspaper. Consider the stories concerning life and death (such as euthanasia and end of life care) and businesses. Keep these articles in a folder and consider your viewpoint on these. You should respond with your written point of view to three different scenarios.

Prompts:

- For the scenario you have found, what is the most loving thing to do?
- For the scenario you have found, what decision would cause the greatest good, for the greatest number of people?
- For the scenario you have found, what would be the most natural thing to do?
- For the scenario that you have found, what would be the most 'dutiful' thing to do (eg what should you do?)

