

OCR A-Level Philosophy/Ethics/Buddhism extension/ challenge work

There are many ways in which you can do further work to prepare for your A-Level in Philosophy and Ethics. Below are some suggestions of ways you could enhance your understanding of these areas of study over the summer.

Something to read:

- Visit any bookshop or go online and find a book of your choice to read – authors such as Nigel Warburton, Peter Vardy, Mel Thompson and Stephen Law write books suitable for A-Level students.
- Sophie's World by Jostein Gaarder – an excellent introduction to Philosophy that reads more like a novel.
- The Philosophy Files by Stephen Law
- Ethics Matters by Peter Vardy
- A short history of Philosophy by Robert Solomon
- A very short introduction to Buddhism by Damien Keown

Something to watch:

- Philosophy Tube on YouTube
- Philosophy Vibe on YouTube
- Any film with that explores a philosophical or ethical theme. Some suggestions are: Minority Report (Free Will), Me before You (Euthanasia), Dead Man Walking (Death Penalty), Enron (Business Ethics), Artificial Intelligence (story of a robot boy), Lourdes (French film about miracle claims)

Something to research:

- Euthanasia – recent case studies: Diane Pretty, Tony Nicklinson, Tony Bland, Terri Schiavo, Debbie Purdy
- Buddhism in the Western World vs Buddhism in the East (research Buddhism in different countries eg. Thailand, Japan)
- Research further on key philosophers and their key contributions to Philosophy

Something to make:

- Timeline of key philosophers to display in your bedroom!



Something to write:

- Make detailed notes on the videos you watch or books you read
- Complete the online justice course at Harvard University – an excellent preparation for your A-Level ethics course <https://online-learning.harvard.edu/course/justice>
- <https://royalinstitutephilosophy.org/news/think-essay-prize/>
- Have a go at researching this essay competition for aspiring students of Philosophy. Research other essay competitions and the essay titles they ask students to write essays for.