

A Level Ethics Induction Work: 2021 – due 2nd September

1. General Introductions to Ethics

What is ethics: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Rr7U49RPpTs> (10 min 18 secs). Philo-Notes Whiteboard Edition. This is a really good clear and simple overview of what is meant by 'ethics'. Make notes on the two branches of ethics; the difference between ethics and morality; the three types of ethics. Take your time, set out your notes clearly and pause the presentation as necessary.

2. Getting You Thinking...

TED talk. Peter Singer: Effective Altruism:

https://www.ted.com/talks/peter_singer_the_why_and_how_of_effective_altruism (17 min 19 secs). Peter Singer is a famous and important ethicist. This talk is fantastically engaging and will get you questioning yourself, others and the world around you. Lovely stuff! Please however keep in mind that about 30 seconds in there is some brief but upsetting footage shown. Listen to the talk and produce a piece of work that sums up the parts of the talk you found the most interesting. There is no 'correct' answer to what you include in your summary. I am simply looking for your take on what was interesting. You can choose whatever format you wish.

Look at the ethics section of the Guardian website: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/ethics>
This is a fascinating resource and one to delve into to get you thinking about the world around you in a different way. Research any three articles about three different ethical issues. Produce your research in whatever format suits you. Now try to resist quizzing your parents on what they think about the issues...

3. Getting Technical...

Watch this video – An Introduction to Ethics https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3_t4obUc51A (10 minutes). It gives definitions of technical terms etc. It is definitely a bit 'wordy' and technical but relax and go with it. Try to make detailed notes about what you hear, pausing it whilst it plays as necessary. Don't worry if you find this difficult and it is absolutely fine to take your time!

4. The Introduction of Some Specific Ethical Theories

Considering the ethics of sunbathing during the coronavirus pandemic is a good, topical thinking activity (remember when sunbathing used to be a nice, simple pastime that didn't draw any criticism or attention?!). The article also starts to drill down into specific ethical theories (two of which we will learn about in Year 12).

<https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2020/apr/10/sunbathing-park-deep-moral-questions-philosophers-coronavirus-individual> Whose ideas fit best with your own – John Stuart Mill, Immanuel Kant or Carl Marx? Explain why.

5. Finally...

Write up/illustrate/prepare a short presentation on what you have learned from the above resources (choose whatever format you prefer). Include key terms and their definitions, explanations of any examples, arguments for and against the examples, parts you have found particularly interesting etc. This will help you with the key A Level, skill of summarising. Don't put lots of pressure on yourself here – I am after a fairly simple summary to I can see what you have picked up and what you have found interesting. It is not a test, I promise!