A LEVEL RE SUMMER TASKS: BUDDHISM

The following tasks are designed to prepare you for your studies in September and to give you a head start with some of the content that will be introduced to you in half term one. All parts of the tasks should be completed and can be handwritten or typed up onto a computer. Suggested resources for you to use are Buddhanet, The Clear Vision Website, The Buddhist Centre site, BBC pages on Buddhism, The Dalai Lama's website and any Buddhism books you can get your hands on. The tasks are broken down into difficulty for you and if you find some of the concepts difficult, do not panic. Please avoid copy and pasting large portions of information, just try and simplify the concepts and put them into your own words. This will be due the first week back in September and will give you a huge advantage as we begin to explore the basics of Buddhism. The tasks below should take you 2 hours but it will make a HUGE difference to you when you start the course.

Give a brief history of the life of the Buddha. Starting before his birth and ending at his death. Do this as a timeline.	What are some of the key differences between Theravada and Mahayana Buddhism? Give 3 examples.	What are Buddhist beliefs about karma and rebirth. Try and give a paragraph for each and how they work.	Research and illustrate the Buddhist idea of the wheel of life or the wheel of rebecoming. What does this tell you about Buddhist views of life after death?
What are the concepts of Dukkha, Anicca & Anatta & where do they come from?	What are the 5 moral pre- cepts? Give examples of how these may be followed by Buddhists.	What will you find as part of the Eightfold Path? Divide it into its 3 subsections & try and give information about each part.	What are the 3 poisons of the mind? Research them and explain why they lead to suffering according to Buddhists.
"Buddhism is pessimistic" This will be a question we consider early on. Plan a response to this statement (treat it like a 12 mark question for now)	Research and present Information on the Four Noble Truths of Buddhism. These are the Buddha's key teachings. Can you link this to a doctors diagnosis?	Samsara & Nirvana are two key states of being in Buddhism—what are some of the differences between the two?	The Pali Canon is the one sacred text for Buddhists. Research its different parts & how it is used by different groups of Buddhists.

A LEVEL RE SUMMER TASKS: ETHICS

The following tasks are designed to prepare you for your studies in September and to give you a head start with some of the content that will be introduced to you in half term one. The tasks are broken down into difficulty for you and if you find some of the concepts difficult, do not panic. Please avoid copy and pasting large portions of information, just try and simplify the concepts and put them into your own words. This will be due the first week back in September and will give you a huge advantage as we begin to explore Ethics. The tasks below should take you between 2-3 hours but it will make a HUGE difference to you when you start the course.

Research the law in England and Wales around abortion. How does this compare with the rest of the world?	Make a list of 10 ethical issues that may arise in modern society. Give a brief explanation of each.	As of 2025, the law around euthanasia in England is set to change. Find out what the proposed changes to the law are. Do you agree with these changes?
Research animal cloning—who was Dolly the sheep? What are the ad- vantages and disadvantages of ani- mal cloning?	Find out the differences between the 3 main forms of ethics— deontological, teleological, char- acter-based. Which type of ap- proach to ethics do you prefer?	Find out the difference between animal intensive farming and organic farming practices. Make a list of pros/cons of each.
https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science -environment-56767517 Read the article above on embryo research—summarise what the ethi- cal issue is and give your opinion on	https://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/ capitalpunishment/ Visit the website above. Write a compel- ling speech EITHER for OR against capi- tal punishment.	Look up Saviour Siblings. How is it done? What are the ethical issues? Do YOU think its morally acceptable?

A LEVEL RE SUMMER TASKS: PHILOSOPHY

For your philosophy transition work, I would like you to create a booklet, PowerPoint or similar to record key facts about some of the most famous philosophers of all time. You will learn a lot about these Scholars during

For each of the Scholars opposite, I would like you to include the following information:

- 1. Name
- 2. Year of birth & death (if applicable)
- 3. Country of birth
- 4. Photo (if there is one)
- 5. Are they religious or not?
- 6. Key philosophical theories discussed or explored
- 7. Did they object to any theories or ideas? Why?



Scholars

- Plato
- St Thomas Aquinas
- David Hume
- Richard Dawkins
- Rene Descartes
- J.L Mackie
- John Hick
- Richard Swinburne
- Aristotle
- Bertrand Russell
- William Paley
- St Anselm of Canterbury