

Summer Bridging Work - A Level Religious Studies

Part 1 – Philosophy

Philosophy is a sense of wonder

As we grow we lose the sense of wonder, because we are used to the world. Life becomes a habit. Philosophy tries to make us look beyond what we have learnt to accept, to go beyond our routine and get back to the sense of wonder.

Task 1: Read these quotes and WRITE in great detail (1 side) what you think they mean:

“The unexamined life is not worth living” Socrates

“The only wisdom is knowing you know nothing at all” Socrates

Task 2: Read the following story and answer the questions:

1. What is your understanding of this story?
2. “Is it better to question the world around you or accept what you know to be true?” Discuss
3. “If the Weatherfieldians are happy in their ignorance, is it better to leave them?” Discuss.
4. How do you know what you believe to be the truth is the truth?

Members of a bizarre Weatherfields sect lived a very secluded life at St Hilda Hogden House. All but the leader were forbidden any contact with the outside world and were taught that reality was the work portrayed in soap operas – the only television programmes they were allowed to watch. For the Weatherfieldians, as they were known, Coronation Street, EastEnders, Emmerdale and HollyOaks were not the work of fiction but fly on the wall documentaries. And since most of the members had been born in the commune, the pretence was not hard to maintain.

One day, however, disciple Kenneth, who had always been a touch rebellious, decided to leave Hogden's and visit the place he had seen so often on the altar box. This was, of course, strictly forbidden. But Kenneth managed to escape.

What he found amazed him. The biggest shock came when he managed to get to Coronation Street and discovered it wasn't in Weatherfields at all, but was a set in a studio.

But when he furtively returned to Hogden's and told his fellow disciples what he had discovered, he was dismissed as a lunatic “You should never have left” they told him “It's not safe out there. The mind plays tricks on you.” And with that they chased him from the commune and forbade him to enter again.