

Phase 3 A-Level Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism Induction tasks – please email all completed work to Mrs Crosley

1. Choose any **three interesting articles** featured on **www.upworthy.com** or **www.huffingtonpost.com/religion** (you can download the apps also). **Summarise** each article by writing a sophisticated response showing your deep-thinking insights. What ethical issues or dilemmas does it address? What is your opinion on the matter? How could someone challenge your opinion on this topic? What interesting questions could you ask to explore further? Each response should be approximately **500 words**.

2. Read and evaluate at least 5 of the following BBC IWONDER articles:

- Are we wired to believe in a higher power?
- Can a religion accept other faiths as true?
- What's so noble about Buddhism's four noble truths?
- Is God a woman?
- Can banking ever be ethical?
- Should you have the right to die?
- Was it right to Bomb Hiroshima?
- Why is calligraphy so important to Islam?
- Remembering genocide: Are we doing it right?

Look for evidence that both supports and disputes each side of the argument and draw your own conclusion. You should list arguments for and against, and then write at least a paragraph as a conclusion for each.

3. TED talks (<https://www.ted.com/talks>) – these are usually wonderful, with plenty to stimulate your questioning and reasoning skills. Some favourites:

- Elizabeth Loftus – how reliable is your memory?
- Dan Gilbert – why we make bad decisions
- Richard Dawkins – militant atheism
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – We should all be feminists
- Damon Horowitz – Philosophy in prison
- His Holiness the Karmapa: The technology of the heart
- Playlist: Are you there, God? (11 talks)
- Matthieu Ricard: The habits of happiness

There are loads of talks on here, so use the search engine to find topics that interest you. Practise note-taking; write notes as you listen, just as you would if you were listening to a real-life lecture, and practise the skill of jotting down key points at speed. Ask yourself questions when you get to the end: what were the speaker's key messages? Do you agree with the speaker? What might someone who disagreed say, and what might their reasons be?