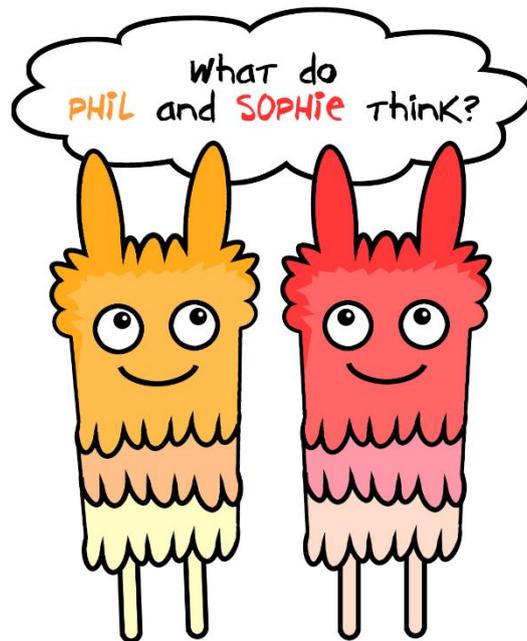


Year 8 RS



Topic 2

Knowledge and Assessment Organiser

P4C – Philosophy for Children

Student name:



**Why does thinking make us
who we are?**

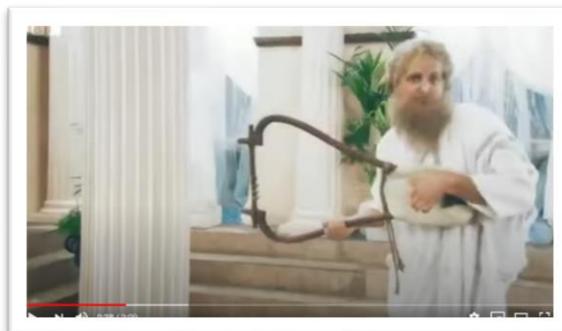
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Did you know...?

Horrible Histories links to our RE lessons!

We're the Thinkers is a **song** from the **Horrible Histories** TV series. It aired in Series 4, and is a parody of The Monkees' theme **song (an old TV programme)**, it stars four of the greatest **Greek philosophers** singing about their lives and theories. Scan the QR code to find out more!





Why do bad things happen to good people?

Why is thinking important?



1. What makes me 'me'?



2. Can we ever truly know ourselves?



3. Why is thinking important?



4. What is a philosophical question?



5. How do we use a stimulus in P4C?



6. How do we form a philosophical question and use it to have an enquiry?

Essential Knowledge

What is Philosophy?

Philosophy is an ancient subject, dating back to the Ancient Greeks 2,500 years ago. Philosophers are interested in thinking about, discussing, and sometimes writing about what we might call the 'big questions' in life – philosophical questions. A 'small question' typically has a straightforward, easy answer, about which there isn't much discussion (e.g. 'is it raining outside'), whereas a 'big question' might be described as requiring deep, careful, and critical thinking in order to engage with it meaningfully and make progress towards an answer.



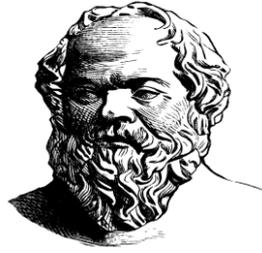
Where is Greece?



For centuries, philosophers have been coming up with arguments to answer these questions and respond to the arguments of others. We are all familiar with the idea of arguing with people (often falling out as a consequence!) but philosophers try to argue with one another in order to work towards the truth, rather than simply 'winning' the argument.

So philosophers are experts of deep thinking. Whereas Usain Bolt is a PHYSICAL athlete, philosophers are INTELLECTUAL athletes, flexing mental muscles for the sake of knowledge and understanding. Here is a selection of philosophical questions:

19 The famous philosopher, Socrates, stated that 'the unexamined life is not worth living.' What
20 he meant was that if people do not think carefully about such questions, then they will end up
21 holding beliefs and values which are not well thought through and lack justification or support.
22 Philosophical thinking gives you control to shape your own beliefs and values, rather than
23 simply accepting what other people try to make you think.



24
25 One of the aims of doing philosophy is to help you to become a better thinker by exploring
26 and discussing together a range of very important philosophical questions. Through this, you
27 will gain a better understanding of these questions and perhaps move closer to truth!

What's the story?



Hello, my name is Alexander. I am 14 years old and I am the son of King Philip II of Macedon, a mighty country in Ancient Greece. I attend lessons with my friends, the sons of nobles and friends of my father. We go to school in the area of Naoussa and most of our lessons are taught in and around the Temple of the Nymphs. We have long days of schooling and our teacher is the famous Aristotle. Our classroom is full of nature and we are taught to look at the animals, birds and plants that surround us. We are lucky because close to the temple are many trees, a river which we swim in and lots of small swamps which croak with the sounds of frogs in the spring and early summer.

Aristotle teaches us to question, observe and use our minds. We have lessons in medicine (because we will need to look after ourselves when we are warriors), morals, religion, logic, art and philosophy. Our days are long and we learn for over seven hours a day, but Aristotle does allow us time to train at swords and at how to train and school horses.

Aristotle is a brilliant teacher. He encourages us to discuss what we experience and what has been experienced and understood by those who came before us. He asks us many questions and encourages us to use evidence in our answers. He nags at us to make sure that we frame our answers correctly and use fluent language instead of sentence fillers like ers and ums. As battle commanders and leaders, we have to be able to communicate clearly and get our points across.

Aristotle has also taught us to read and because most of us are the sons of famous warriors and generals, Aristotle also teaches us about the history of our people and the Gods and heroes of our religion. I love hearing about the mighty fearful Ares and the tricky mischievous Hermes but my favourite God is the all-powerful Zeus. My favourite hero is the greatest of them all – the brilliant Achilles! We use a great deal of the stories first created by Homer and Aristotle encourages us to think about the heroes in the tales and how and why they made the decisions they did.

Why does this matter?

Aristotle was one of the most famous philosophers. He encouraged people to questions and observe the world around them.

His teaching must have been successful because Alexander went on to become one of the greatest leaders of the ancient world.

You may know him better as Alexander the Great, whose empire stretched from Egypt and Greece to as far east as India and Afghanistan!



The Temple of the Nymphs at Noussa today.

Examining your beliefs...



How does examining your beliefs work?

The first thing to do is identify two beliefs that you hold which can be tested. They can be beliefs about anything!

I believe that...

Aliens definitely exist somewhere else in the universe.

I believe that...

I believe that...

Now, in order to figure out whether your beliefs are well supported, let's have a look at the reasons for you holding these beliefs. Off you go...

My reasons for believing this are as follows...

I like the idea that we are not alone in the universe and surely there has to be some kind of intelligent life out there somewhere!

My reasons for believing this are as follows...

My reasons for believing this are as follows...

Can the reasons that you have given be argued against (a counter-argument)? If so, how?

An argument against my belief could be...

Just because I like the idea doesn't mean it is true. Also, there is not enough evidence to support the belief that aliens definitely exist. They might exist but we don't know for sure!

An argument against my belief could be...

An argument against my belief could be...

Finally, is the counter-argument strong enough for you to change your belief?

Yes. On reflection, I don't have enough justification to back up the belief I have given.

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When we do philosophy remember

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'Phil and Sophie'

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1. We like to discuss not debate.

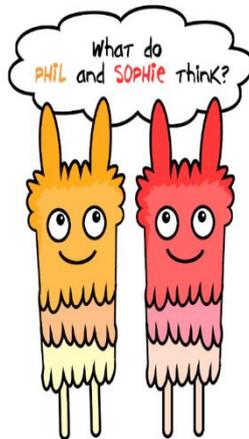
2. We only ask questions that have no right or wrong answers!

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7. We don't ask experts for the answer...because they can't help us!



3. We like to think outside of the box!

4. We find questions within questions.

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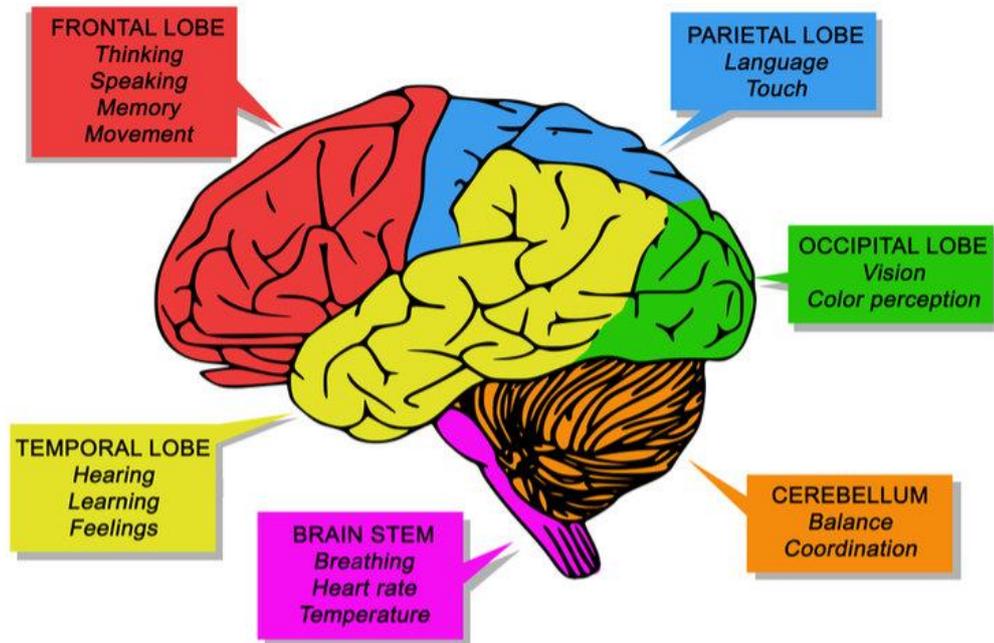
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6. We don't ask yes or no questions.

5. We think deeply to try and share our thoughts clearly.

What parts of our brain help us with



philosophical thinking?

The majority of thinking-related processes happen in the frontal lobe. These include decision-making, problem-solving, and planning.

The frontal lobe also helps the development of cognition, language processing, and intelligence.

The temporal lobe controls other processes related to language understanding, perception, and recognition. It is also in charge of learning and memory.

Key Words

Philosophy -the study of theories about the meaning of things such as life, knowledge, and beliefs.

Listening - to pay attention to a sound, or to try to hear a sound.

Communication - the process of giving information or of making emotions or ideas known to someone.

Knowledge - all the facts that someone knows about a particular subject.

Murder – the crime of killing someone deliberately.

Punishment – a way in which someone is punished.

Experience - knowledge and skill that is gained through time spent doing a job or activity.

Forgiveness - the action or feeling of forgiving someone.

Thinking – to consider things carefully and understand what is important.

Function – the job that something is designed to do.

Confidence – the belief that you are able to do things well.

Intellectual - the ability to think in an intelligent way and to understand things

Model Assessment Answer

This assessment is a spoken assessment, therefore there is not a model answer for you to look at.

You can, however, scan the QR code below to see a really good example of P4C happening.

As a class you will form your own Philosophical question and you will be assessed on the quality of your contribution to the discussion. The assessment grid that will be used to assess you is on the next page.



Year 8 RE – Topic 2 Assessment (part 2)

Philosophical Discussion (P4C)

TRACK	What the track looks like	The track you demonstrated
Working below D	You stated a thought based on the question.	
D	You used an example to help explain your thoughts.	
C	You used various examples to explain in detail your answer to the question and have begun to build upon the ideas of others.	
B	You have demonstrated deep thinking throughout the discussion and have used examples to respond to and build upon other people's ideas.	
A	You have thought philosophically throughout our discussion, using examples to support every point that you made. You have built upon the ideas of other people and have evaluated both your ideas and those of others.	
Working beyond A	You have thought philosophically throughout our discussion, using examples to support every point that you made. You have built upon the ideas of other people and have evaluated both your ideas and those of others. You have created further questions for discussion based on the ideas that have been discussed.	



10 Questions

1. What is philosophy?
2. Where did philosophy originate?
3. Name some famous philosophers.
4. Which part of the brain deals with movement?
5. Which parts of the brain govern thinking and emotions?
6. What is meant by the term belief?
7. What made Alexander the Great's education so effective?
8. What kind of questions would Phil and Sophie ask?
9. How would we make our reasoning more interesting?
10. What is meant by the story of the Ship of Theseus?

Answer to our questions

1. What is philosophy?

Philosophy is the study of thinking and how we think and react to stimuli and questioning.

2. Where did philosophy originate?

Philosophy first became formalised during the time of the Ancient Greeks, during the Bronze Age.

3. Name some famous philosophers.

There are many famous philosophers such as: Aristotle, Epicurus, Pythagoras, Seneca and St. Augustine.

4. Which part of the brain deals with movement?

The frontal lobe deals with movement.

5. Which parts of the brain govern thinking and emotions?

Thinking and emotion are governed by the temporal, frontal and parietal lobes.

6. What is meant by the term belief?

A belief is a strongly held feeling.

7. What made Alexander the Great's education so effective?

Alexander was taught about the natural world and the heavens as was known at the time. He was also given fighting lessons and was tutored in maths and public speaking. He was also given a good understanding of the natural world. His teacher was the now world famous philosopher Aristotle.

8. What kind of questions would Phil and Sophie ask?

Phil and Sophie would most like questions that are open ended and don't have clear answers.

9. How would we make our reasoning more interesting?

We could use real time evidence to illustrate our points and perhaps use our own experiences to give a greater level of understanding.

10. What is meant by the story of the Ship of Theseus?

In the Ship of Theseus, we look at a ship which is changed every time something goes wrong until after many years, it is a completely different

ship. The philosopher Hobbes says that the ship is like us. We change and adapt to different circumstance but ultimately we stay the same people and have the same characteristics we had in the start of our life's journey.

Articles for Wider Reading and Flipped Learning

Read the following poem and list the questions asked that you can answer and answer them. Then list the questions from the poem that you can't answer. Why can't these be answered?

I wonder why the grass is green,
And why the wind is never seen?
Who taught the birds to build a nest
And told the trees to take a rest?
Or when the moon is not quite round,
Where can the missing bit be found?
Who paints the rainbow in the sky,
And hangs the fluffy clouds so high?
Why is it now, do you suppose,
That Dad won't tell me, if he knows?

From *Come Follow Me* by
Jeannie Kirby



Scan the QR code to take you to a page where you can find lots more out about the Ancient Greeks; they didn't just do philosophy!

