

A Level Philosophy – Summer Homework

Exam board: AQA

For your summer work, and as preparation for the start of the A Level Philosophy course in September, you must do some research to develop your skills of philosophical thought and discussion.

Use reliable resources to complete the following task.

“I think; therefore, I am.”

One of the most famous phrases in the history of philosophy is “I think; therefore, I am.” Your challenge is to produce a mini-essay that addresses the following questions on “I think; therefore, I am.”:

- Which philosopher said this?
- Why did they say this?
- What arguments are there in favour of this claim?
- Why might this claim be weak?
- Do you think this statement is true? Why/why not?

You can structure your essay in any way you like. Essays should be 400-500 words long and may be handwritten or typed.

To be successful you should:

- Write clearly and coherently
- Show understanding of the context of the statement (when was the statement said and what led to it being said?)
- Consider arguments for and against the statement “I think; therefore, I am.”
- Support your own view with reasoned argument.

The **deadline** for this work is your **first A Level Philosophy lesson in September**.

Your essay should be an example of your best work and should demonstrate your commitment to Advanced Level learning.

Useful websites

<https://www.britannica.com/topic/cogito-ergo-sum>

<http://www.open.edu/openlearn/history-the-arts/culture/philosophy/concepts/rene-descartes-i-think-therefore-i-am>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b05qk1n3>