

A-Level Philosophy & Ethics

You have already had access to induction material, completing tasks for the July induction day. In addition the following need to be completed over the summer and brought with you in September..

You could write about any of the ideas that interest you to keep your skills up to scratch.

Activity One

Scenario: I'm on school lunch duty and I see and hear a girl saying nasty things to another girl while they're eating their shepherd's pie.



Questions

Why is it OK, and my duty, to tell her off for being unkind?

Why is it not OK for me to tell her off for eating meat (imagine I am a vegetarian)?

And then:

Which, if any, of our beliefs are 'just a matter of personal preference' and which, if any, refer to some kind of absolute fact?

Should we leave others to their 'personal preference' in matters of religious belief, or are some religious beliefs right and others wrong in an absolute sense?

Is there an ultimate truth, an absolute right and wrong, about religious truth claims?

At what point, if any, does one culture have the right to tell another 'you're doing it wrong' over matters of religion and ethics?

To what extent, if at all, do people have an obligation to share their religious faith with others – or should we keep our beliefs to ourselves and try and respect the views of others even if we think they'll miss out on going to heaven?

Activity Two

'Visit' the British museum online:

<https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com>

Explore the collections at the Horniman Museum:

<https://www.horniman.ac.uk/collections/explore-our-collections>

... and any other museums you can find online

Questions

How much can we tell about people's beliefs, from the objects they leave behind?

What makes an object a 'religious' object, rather than just a special one?

Why do religious people have sacred objects – what function do they serve?

Become a geek about one of the objects that takes your interest – find out more about the culture it comes from, what the people believed and how the object was used, as well as which questions remain unanswered.

Have a good summer and we look forward to seeing you in September
