



# IB Higher/Standard Philosophy L6

The emphasis of the IB Philosophy course is on ‘doing philosophy’, that is, on actively engaging students in philosophical activity. The course is focused on stimulating students’ intellectual curiosity and encouraging them to examine both their own perspectives and those of others. Students are challenged to develop their own philosophical voice and grow into independent thinkers, in addition to engaging with some of the world’s most interesting and influential thinkers. The course also develops highly transferable skills such as the ability to formulate arguments clearly, to make reasoned judgement and to evaluate complex issues.

“Wise men speak because they have something to say; fools because they have to say something.”  
— Plato

Students will learn:

- Ethics:
- Normative Ethics
  - Meta-ethics
  - Applied Ethics

Prescribed Text:  
-Rene Descartes; *Meditations*

- Exploring Philosophical Activity:
- Nature
  - Function
  - Meaning
  - Methodology (Higher Level only)

- What does excellence look like?**
- Knowledge and application of philosophical language.
  - Ability to analyse and evaluate philosophical arguments.
  - Wider reading/independent study in evidence in students’ work and extra notes in their folders.
  - HL only: An ability to reflect upon their study of philosophy as a whole.



## Knowledge, understanding & Skills

- Developing knowledge and understanding:
- Demonstrate a developing knowledge and understanding of philosophical concepts, issues and arguments.
  - Beginning to identify the philosophical issues present in both philosophical and non-philosophical stimuli.

- Developing skills of application and analysis:
- Developing skills of analysing philosophical concepts, issues and arguments.
  - Developing skills of analysing the philosophical issues present in both philosophical and non-philosophical stimuli.
  - Beginning to explain and analyse different approaches to philosophical issues, making use of relevant supporting evidence/examples.

- Developing skills of synthesis and evaluation:
- Developing the ability to evaluate philosophical concepts, issues and arguments.
  - Beginning to construct and develop relevant, balanced and focused arguments.
  - Developing the ability to discuss and evaluate different interpretations or points of view.

- Beginning to select, use and apply appropriate skills and techniques:
- Beginning to demonstrate the ability to produce clear and well-structured written responses.
  - Starting to use philosophical vocabulary.
  - In the internal assessment task, start to use research skills, organization and referencing.

“I cannot teach anybody anything. I can only make them think  
— Socrates

## How will we assess impact?

- There will be an exam-style question completed at least once per theme. This will usually be a take-home essay but may, on occasion, be completed instead as a timed essay in class.
- Increased emphasis upon unseen exam questions under timed conditions, both in class, for homework and during mini-PPE and formal PPE weeks.

## How can you enhance your learning at home?

In addition to the homework tasks set via SMHW, and the textbooks provided by the school, the following wider resources might be useful for the students (and their parents) at home:

- Sophie's World, Jostein Gaarder (ISBN: 978-1474602280)
- The Pig That Wants To Be Eaten, Julian Baggini (ISBN: 978-1847081285)
- Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy, Simon Blackburn (ISBN: 978-0192854254)
- 'Crash Course Philosophy' on YouTube
- 'The School of Life' on YouTube

## International Opportunities

### Visits Programmes

- United Nations visit to Geneva
- International work experience visits
- Community lectures
- Model United Nations conferences

### Within the curriculum

- Extensive discussion and analysis of international philosophical thinkers
- Use of international examples in examining philosophical theories
- Analysis of cultural relativity in philosophical thought



### Wider Reading

Philosophy: The Basics- Nigel Warburton

Oxford Very Short introductions to Theology, bible, Christianity, Islam, Buddhism

Ancient Philosophy: a very short introduction - Julia Annas (2003)

Gorgias - Plato

Leviathan - Thomas Hobbes

On liberty, utilitarianism, and other essays - John Stuart Mill

The Oxford Handbook of Aesthetics - Jerrold Levinson (2005)

An Introduction to Contemporary Epistemology - Jonathan Dancy (1985)

### Extra Challenge:

<https://philosophybites.com/2017/04/400-bites-podcast-interviews-arranged-by-theme--1.html>

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<http://dailynous.com/2020/03/31/spreadsheet-open-live-online-philosophy-conferences-events/>

<https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/podcasts-link/podcasts-philosophy>