



Learner and Teacher Agency

Year 9 Philosophy: Philosophise with a Philosopher

Choose a philosopher from the selection offered and answer some of the following questions about him or her. Include at least one quotation from your philosopher in your answers, where possible. You may present your research in any way you choose.

Explanation

Explain the main philosophical ideas advanced by your philosopher. How did he develop those ideas?

How do we know what we know about your philosopher?

How do his ideas connect with the ideas of other philosophers?

Interpretation

Do your philosopher's ideas matter?

What do they reveal, illustrate or illuminate about human nature or the human condition?

Application

Is there anything in the modern world (people, events, ideas, things, beliefs, phenomena) in which you can see the ideas of your philosopher at work?

Is there a way for you or others to apply the ideas of your philosopher in your lives?

Why do modern people find quotes and wise thoughts by great thinkers so interesting?

Perspectives

How have other philosophers criticised your philosopher's views?

What are the strengths and weaknesses of ONE of your philosophers ideas?

Did your philosopher's ideas appeal to people in his society? Why? Why not?

Self-Knowledge

What have you got in common with your philosopher? How are you different?

Would you dare to advance ideas that are different from those of the people in your life?

Empathy

Why is this philosopher remembered today?

What would the world have been like if he had not existed?

How does who we are shape our view(s) of the world?

References:



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Facets of Understanding, 2007 http://xnet.rrc.mb.ca/glenh/new_page_11.htm (Date accessed 8/6/2011)

Olsen, 1996, *Sophie's World*, UK, Green Submarine

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