Holiday Bonus Reading List: Year 9 going into Year 10

Teacher disclaimer: There is no compulsory homework for the summer holidays. I do not want anyone to feel pressured into doing work they don’t really want to do in the holidays so if you’re not interested just ignore this. However, if you feel like it and want to deepen your knowledge of the subject then here are some ideas for what you can read. Feel free to dip into any small part of the list that takes your fancy or read all of it or read none of it. When you’re stuck inside a cottage on a Welsh hillside as torrents of rain hour after hour come slamming against the panes of glass you do at least feel as though you are spending your time productively.

You will be studying ideas about right and wrong behaviour and moral dilemmas. This is called Ethics. BBC Ethics page is quite useful for improving your knowledge of the topics covered in Y10 if you look under the right headings: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/guide/> .

For general info on Buddhism see [www.religionfacts.com](http://www.religionfacts.com) and *BBC Religion & Ethics* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/buddhism/>and also books on Buddhism and Buddhism sections of books on World Religions in H13 and public libraries. You might want to read some of the *Tripitaka*,the Buddhist holy book. *The Puzzle of Ethics* mentioned below has a section on Buddhist Ethics.

Books

* *Where were You When I was Hurting?* by Nicky Cruz is about whether God cares about human suffering. It’s also relevant to the Crime & Punishment topic. Cruz was from an extremely violent background in New York but turned his back on all that when he became a Christian. He speaks honestly from his life experiences. This book is easy to read.
* *What’s so Amazing about Grace?* by Philip Yancey is quite a useful book in understanding a Christian response to the Crime & Punishment topic. Yancey uses powerful stories to teach the idea of grace (undeserved kindness), forgiveness and mercy in a world of imperfection. He gives some real life stories and some fictional parables and relates them to some of the topics covered in the GCSE course. This is a popular book. This is available from East Riding libraries service.
* *The Ragamuffin Gospel* by Brennan Manning is in a similar vein. It is written by a recovering alcoholic who all of his life struggled with a sense of unworthiness and sinfulness before God. His experiences and those of others are used to illustrate the forgiveness and unconditional love of God. This book inspired the musician Rich Mullins to name his band after it.
* Towards the end of Y10 you will be studying various a topic relating to Philosophy. *Sophie’s World* by Jostein Gaarder is a novel that provides a very readable introduction to the subject of Philosophy. Sophie Amundsen is a teenage girl who through a series of mysterious events and with the help of an old philosopher try to outwit a superior being with godlike powers. Miss Butler and Miss Ward both rate this highly as a real page turner. It’s on my own ‘to read list’. It’s available for 1p on Amazon.

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Sophies-World-Anniversary-Jostein-Gaarder/dp/1474602282/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1469625654&sr=8-1&keywords=sophie%27s+world>

You can also borrow it for free from the East Riding Public Library service.

* *Who Moved the Stone* by Frank Morrison is a classic book on the topic of the Existence of God. It is written by a lawyer who set out to disprove the resurrection of Jesus. You can borrow it from East Riding libraries or it’s cheap on Amazon.
* *The Puzzle of God* by Peter Vardy – This is a difficult read and is more A-Level standard but if you can cope with it you will do very well in the section of the exam on the Existence of God. This is a neutral book and looks at both sides of the debate. There are copies in H13.
* *The Puzzle of Ethics* by Peter Vardy & Paul Grosch –Similar to the one above, this book contains sections on Just War, Crime & Punishment, Human Rights and Buddhist Ethics, all of which are in your exam. This would fill out your knowledge of these topics. Ethics means the study of moral dilemmas like war or treatment of animals. The first half of the book is all about theories of Ethics which you don’t need to know but it might help you answer the twelve-mark questions better. Copies are in H13.
* *The Puzzle of Evil* by Peter Vardy – You will be studying the question of evil & suffering this year so this book is very relevant but also quite hard and theoretical. Copies are in H13.
* You can also find a lot of relevant books at East Riding Libraries: <https://library.eastriding.gov.uk/web/arena> . If you search using the key word ‘Philosophy’ Nigel Warburton’s *Philosophy: The Basics* is a good one.

The VLE

You can read some revision and other documents on the VLE here: <https://moodle.beverleyhigh.net/course/view.php?id=417> . This Unit is for a different GCSE course but the information on Prejudice and War & Peace is the same as what you are studying. I will probably be creating a separate page for your course but it all takes time for things to happen.

The Bible

As well as book format you can download the Bible for free on Kindle or on your phone. If English is not your first language then biblegateway.com is likely to help you because it has dozens of different language versions on it. Likewise, if you are learning a foreign language this can help you practise. Of course, it’s available in English too!

* If you want a good overview of the life of Jesus and have some time, the Gospel of Luke is a good way to start. It’s 24 chapters long. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Luke+1&version=NIV>
* You can improve your knowledge of the section you have already done on Wealth & Poverty by reading the New Testament Book of James. This is written by the brother of Jesus and addresses poverty issues. It’s five chapters long. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=james+1-5&version=ESVUK>
* There are poverty & wealth issues mentioned in the Book of Proverbs from the Old Testament but they are more spread out and it’s 31 chapters long. However, it is written by King Solomon who is said to have been one of the wisest people who ever lived. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=proverbs+1&version=ESVUK>
* The Sermon on the Mount is a good passage of three chapters on Christian Ethics (relevant to Y10 topics). In this passage Jesus teaches his disciples on a mountainside in Galilee whilst thousands of hearers look on. Matthew chapters 5-7. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=matthew+5-7&version=ESVUK>
* The death and resurrection of Jesus are dealt with from an eye-witness point of view in John chapters 19-21 which relates well to the Existence of God & Revelation section of the GCSE course. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=John+19-21&version=NIV>
* The Book of Job is a 42 chapter book on the problem of evil. It is a poetical story of an honest man who is made to suffer terrible disasters as a test to see whether he is a genuine friend of God or whether he’s in it for what he can get out of it. If you don’t have time for all that you can get the gist by reading chapters 1, 2 and 42. <https://www.biblegateway.com/quicksearch/?quicksearch=job&qs_version=NIV>

Borrowing books from H13

Books available to borrow have been left on the window sill at the back of the classroom. There is also a blue box of books next to it that you can borrow from. If you do, please write your name on the pink post-it pad and the name of the book. You can keep hold of them until the end of the summer holiday.

Happy reading. Have a good summer holiday.

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