

A-level Philosophy Reading and Research List

1. General introductions

Falzon (Ed), Philosophy Goes to the Movies: An Introduction to Philosophy (Routledge)

Thomas Nagel, What Does It All Mean?

Simon Blackburn, Think

Hetherington, S. Epistemology, The Key Thinkers

Lemos, N. An Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge

Williams, M. Problems of Knowledge: A Critical Introduction to Epistemology.

Gaukroger, S. Objectivity: A Very Short Introduction

Feldman, R. Epistemology

Jennifer Nagel, Knowledge: a very short introduction

Stephen Mumford: Metaphysics: a very short introduction

MacIntyre Alasdair, A Short History of Ethics (Polity Press)

P. Singer (ed.), A Companion to Ethics (Blackwell, 1991)

Stewart Noel, Ethics: An Introduction to Moral Philosophy,

All Classics available free here:

<https://www.perseus.tufts.edu/hopper/collection?collection=Perseus%3Acorpus%3Aperseus%2Cauthor%2CPlato>

2. Key texts – lots of free editions of these

Jonathan Bennett's 'Early Modern Texts' (earlymoderntexts.com) website has them and more:

Hume, An Essay Concerning Human Understanding (Oxford University Press)

Plato, The Republic (Penguin Classics);

Plato, Timaeus (Penguin Classics)

Mill, On Liberty (Penguin Classics)
Descartes, Meditations on First Philosophy
Nietzsche, Beyond Good and Evil (Oxford World's Classics)
Berkeley, Three Dialogues
Locke, J. An Essay Concerning Human Understanding
Kant, I. Critique of Pure Reason
Kant, I. Critique of Practical Reason
Russell, B. The Problems of Philosophy.

3. Epistemology Set Texts and Further Reading

Berkeley, George (1713), Three Dialogues Between Hylas and Philonous
Descartes, René (1641), Meditations on First Philosophy, 1, 2, 3, 5, 6
Gettier, Edmund (1963), 'Is Justified True Belief Knowledge?' Analysis, 23(6): 121-123
Hume, David (1748), An Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding, Section 2 and Section 4 (part 1)
Leibniz, Gottfried Wilhelm (1705), New Essays on Human Understanding, Preface and Book 1
Locke, John (1690), An Essay Concerning Human Understanding, Book 1 (esp. Chapter 2), Book 2 (esp. Chapters 1, 2, 8 and 14), Book 4 (esp. Chapter 11)
Plato, Meno, from 81e
Russell, Bertrand (1912), The Problems of Philosophy, Chapters 1, 2
Trotter Cockburn, Catharine (1732), (attrib) 'A Letter from an anonymous writer to the author of the Minute Philosopher' Appendix to G Berkeley Theory of Vision Vindicated and Explained
Zagzebski, Linda (1999), 'What is Knowledge?' in John Greco & Ernest Sosa (eds.), The Blackwell Guide to Epistemology 92 -116

Further reading:

Whitehead, A.N. *The Concept of Nature*

4. Metaphysics of Mind Set Texts and Further Reading

Avramides Anita (2001). *Other Minds*. Routledge, Chapter 2.

Block, Ned (1980) 'Troubles with functionalism,' in *Readings in Philosophy of Psychology*, Vol 1. Harvard University Press, 275-278 – section 1-2.

Chalmers, David (1996), *The Conscious Mind: In Search of a Fundamental Theory*. Oxford University Press, Chapter 1.

Chalmers, David (2003). 'Consciousness and its place in nature' in *Blackwell Guide to the Philosophy of Mind*, Sections 2 and 3. Blackwell

Churchland, Patricia Smith (2002). *Brain-wise*. Introduction (Sections 1, 3, 4) and Chapter 4, section 2. The MIT Press.

Churchland, Paul (1981), 'Eliminative Materialism and Propositional Attitudes', *Journal of Philosophy* 78, 67-90 (section 2, Why folk psychology might (really) be false)

Descartes, René (1641), *Meditations on First Philosophy*, 6

Hempel Carl (1949/2000), 'The Logical Analysis of Psychology.' in Richard Jeffrey (Ed) *Carl G Hempel: Selected Philosophical Essays*, Cambridge University Press

Jackson, Frank (1982), 'Epiphenomenal Qualia', *Philosophical quarterly*, 32, 127-136

Putnam, Hilary (1975/1986), 'The Nature of Mental States' In *Mind, Language and Reality*. *Philosophical Papers*, Volume 2. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Ryle, Gilbert (1949/2000), *The Concept of Mind*, London, Penguin Classics, Chapters 1, 2, 5 and 6

Shapiro Lisa (Ed) (2007), *The correspondence between Princess Elisabeth of Bohemia and Rene Descartes*, edited and translated. University of Chicago Press. Letters from May 1643.

Smart, Jack J C (1959), 'Sensations and brain processes', *The Philosophical Review*, 68 (2), 141-156

5. Moral Philosophy Set Texts and Further Reading

Annas, Julia (2006), 'Virtue Ethics', in David Copp (ed.), *The Oxford Handbook of Ethical Theory*, Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 515-536

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*: Books 1 (1-5, 7-10, 13), 2 (1-7), 3 (1-5), 5, 6 (1, 2, 5, 8, 9, 12, 13), 7 (12-13), 10 (1-8)

Ayer, Alfred J (1973/1991), *The Central Questions of Philosophy*, London, Penguin, 22-29 and Ayer, AJ (1946), *Language, Truth and Logic*, 2nd Edition, New York, Dover, (esp. Chapters 1 and 6)

Bentham, Jeremy (1789), *Introduction to the Principles of Morals and Legislation*, Oxford, Clarendon Press. Chapter 1 (The Principle of Utility) and Chapter 4 (Measuring Pleasure and Pain)

Diamond, Cora (1978), 'Eating Meat and Eating People' *Philosophy* 53: 465-479

Foot, Philippa (1972), 'Morality as a system of hypothetical imperatives.' *Philosophical Review*, vol 81, issue 3, 305-316.

Hare, Richard M (1952) *The Language of Morals*, Chapters 1, 5, 7, 10.2

Hume, David (1739-40), *Treatise of Human Nature*, Book III, Part 1

Kant, Immanuel (1785), *Foundations of the Metaphysics of Morals*, Chapters 1 and 2

Mackie, John L (1977), *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong*, Penguin, Chapter 1, Sections 8 and 9

Mill, John Stuart (1863), *Utilitarianism*, Chapters 1, 2, 4, 5

Moore, George E (1903), *Principia Ethica*, Cambridge University Press, Sections 6-14

Smart, Jack J C & Williams, Bernard (1973), *Utilitarianism: For and Against*, Chapter 2 (Act utilitarianism and rule utilitarianism) and Chapter 3 (Hedonistic and non-hedonistic utilitarianism)

5. Metaphysics of God Set Texts and Further Reading

Anselm, *Proslogium*, Chapters II–IV and Gaunilo, from the appendix to Anselm's *Proslogium*

Aquinas, Thomas, *Summa Theologica*, Part 1, Question 25, Article 3 and Question 2, Article 3

Ayer, Alfred J (1973/1991), *The Central Questions of Philosophy*, London, Penguin, 22–29 and Ayer, AJ (1946), *Language, Truth and Logic*, 2nd Edition, New York, Dover, (Chapters 1 and 6)

Descartes, René (1641), *Meditations on First Philosophy*, 3 and 5

Flew, Antony, Richard M Hare and Basil Mitchell (1955), 'Theology and Falsification' in *New Essays in Philosophical Theology*, edited by Antony Flew and Alasdair MacIntyre, London, SMC Press

Hick, John (1966/1978), *Evil and the God of Love*, New York, Harper and Row (revised edition). Chapters 13–17 (esp chapter 13)

Hume, David (1779), *Dialogues Concerning Natural Religion*, Parts II, V, VIII and IX

Hume, David (1748), *Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding*, Part XI

Leibniz, Gottfried (1714), *Monadology*, sections 32–39.

Malcolm, Norman (1960), 'Anselm's ontological arguments', *The Philosophical Review*, 69, 41–62

Midgley, Mary (1984), *Wickedness*. Routledge, Chapters 1 and 5

Paley, William (1802/2008), *Natural Theology*, OUP, Chapters 1, 2 and 5

Plantinga, Alvin (1975), God, Freedom and Evil: Essays in Philosophy, George Allen & Unwin, 29–34 and 59–64

Plato, Euthyphro

Stump, Eleanore & Kretzmann, Norman (1981), Eternity. *Journal of Philosophy* 78 (8):429–458

Swinburne, Richard G (1968), 'The Argument from Design,' *Philosophy*, 43 (165), 199–212

Further reading:

Richard Dawkins, *The Selfish Gene* (Oxford University Press, 1978; 2006)

Dawkins, *The God Delusion* (Black Swan, 2007)

Christopher Hitchens, *God is Not Great* (Atlantic, 2007)

Lawrence M Krauss, *A Universe from Nothing* (Simon and Schuster, 2012)

John Hick, *Evil and the God of Love* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2010)

7. Political philosophy

Rawls, J. *A Theory of Justice*, revised edition

Nozick, R. *Anarchy, State and Utopia*

Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto*

John Stuart Mill, *On Liberty*

Jean-Jacques Rousseau, *The Social Contract*

John Locke, *Second Treatise on Government*

Foucault, Michel. *Society Must Be Defended*.

Arendt, Hannah. *The Promise of Politics*.

Plato & Mill as above