

Year 9 PTE Knowledge Organiser: Unit 1- Philosophy Skills

<p><u>Key Words</u></p> <p>Communication- The exchanging of information Utilise- To use something Analyse- Examine something Questioning- Asking the correct questions to find the relevant information Debate- Discuss a topic in a formal way Argument- A set of appropriate reasons given to support an idea or a theory Counterargument- An argument to oppose an idea or a theory Philosophically sound- An argument is philosophically sound when a person's evidence justifies their conclusion or makes their conclusion seem likely e.g. I believe in God, because he performs miracles. There is no other explanation for a miracle, therefore God must be real.</p>	<p><u>Lesson 1- Successful Communication</u></p> <p>Communication is the process of sharing information, thoughts and feelings between people. Effective communication happens when what you are trying to say to a person is received and understood in the way you meant it. When we do not communicate properly it can; cause an argument, make you confused, give the person the wrong information, ruin your relationship with that person, mean that your point does not get made, make you upset, mean that what you want does not get achieved.</p>	<p><u>Lesson 3- Successful Argument</u></p> <p>There are three rules we need to bear in mind whenever we write an argument/our personal opinion. If the argument follows these rules, we would say that the argument is 'philosophically sound'.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Make your argument clear- There are two main types of arguments; supporting and opposing. Supporting arguments give reasons to think a belief is true, and opposing arguments (objections) give reason to think a belief is false. 2) Give convincing evidence for your argument- We need to know why anyone would agree with our argument, and consider why we think the argument is true. We must find a way to present our evidence to support our argument in order to make sure that we have a good argument. We must also make sure that the evidence does prove our conclusion to be true. 3) Give and respond to the relevant counterarguments- One way philosophers tend to strengthen their arguments and make them less one-sided is to consider objections to their arguments, and attempt to answer the objections by replying to them. Replies to objections are usually also arguments known as counterarguments.
	<p><u>Lesson 2- Successful Questioning</u></p> <p>Types of questions which we use in PTE:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed questions with a clear answer: These have a clear, non-negotiable answer. It will usually be a yes or no answer e.g. Did the girl eat her tea? Is it June? • Factual questions: Usually you will be able to find the answer to these questions in what we have studied or you can research it. The answer will be a fact and usually non-negotiable e.g. Where was the Queen born? What train do I catch to London? • Open-ended questions: You can discuss the answers to these questions in a debate and there will not necessarily be a right or wrong answer e.g. How did the man fall in love with the woman? Why was the boy scared of the monster? • Philosophical questions: These questions make us think about the 'big' questions concerning life, the purpose of life and our sense of right and wrong. These can be discussed in a debate and there will be no set answer e.g. What is love? Where does evil come from? <p>When you want to have a good debate or try to find out information, you should ask a combination of these questions. In PTE, we need to be trying to ask more open-ended questions and philosophical questions.</p>	

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Lesson 4- Successful Debate

There are two ways you can debate:

- By writing a speech on a topic and going against groups/people who have a different opinion on the topic
- By having a discussion in a big group on a topic, with each person making shorter contributions

In debating, there are two things to consider:

- **Writing your argument/speech for the debate-** When you are writing your argument for debate, you should follow the three rules for forming a successful argument. When participating in a discussion, you should present your argument following the first two rules. Someone will then present the counter argument by asking one of the four types of questions we have looked and you can answer them and show why your argument is actually right
- **Presenting your argument/speech-** Remember to be confident, speak clearly and to ensure that the argument you are presenting is philosophically sound. It is important, in a group, that everybody talks and contributes to the debate

Lesson 5- Successful Essay Writing

In your essays you will always be given a statement to discuss e.g. 'God does not exist'. You need to discuss different points of view on that statement. Each paragraph should be a different point of view on the statement, and each paragraph should follow the three rules for forming a successful argument:

- Make the argument clear
- Give convincing evidence for the argument
- Give and respond to the relevant counterarguments

You should try and talk about as many different points of view as you can, but your own personal opinion needs to appear a lot in your essays.

At the end of your essay, you should have a conclusion which gives your answer to the statement i.e. do you think it is true or false and why. For example, 'In conclusion, I disagree with the statement and believe that God does exist because he created the universe and no other being could do that'

Lesson 6- Successful Revision

There are many different ways that you can revise and it is important that you find the way which works best for you. Different ideas include; reading and note taking, mind maps, listening to the information, revision cards and being tested by someone. It is not just important that you pick the correct way for you, but also that you are revising properly. Some important things to remember when revising are:

- Take regular breaks
- Start early
- Create a revision timetable when you have lots of exams coming up
- Revise in a quiet environment with little distractions
- Keep your books nice and tidy, so it's easy to revise
- Make sure you catch up on any work missed and work hard in lessons, so you have all the information that you need
- You must take the information in and then apply it otherwise it's unlikely that you will remember it e.g. some people read and write notes; some people learn from their revision cards and then get tested on them, whatever works for you. All revision should include these two parts; **LEARN, APPLY**

