



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

OCR RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Transition Tasks 2025



For your Pre Induction Task, to be completed for your first Religious Studies lesson in September, the RS Team would like you to research the **Philosophers Aristotle and Plato** and **their understandings of reality and knowledge**:

1. Who are the **Plato and Aristotle**? – Create a mini biography for each Philosopher
2. What is **empiricism** and how does **Aristotle use it to understand reality**? – What are Aristotle's four causes? Relate empiricism to Aristotle's four causes and how he uses these to explain reality.
3. What is **rationalism** and how does **Plato use it to understand reality**? – What is Plato's analogy of the cave? What are the Forms? Relate rationalism to Plato's cave and the Forms and explain how he uses these ideas to explain reality.
4. **Write an evaluative response to the following question:**
'Critically compare Plato's rationalism with Aristotle's empiricism'
-What are the two approaches? Which is better. Reach a justified conclusion

Useful websites:

<https://plato.stanford.edu/>

<https://www.iep.utm.edu/>

There are many other good websites you can use or YouTube has many videos explaining and critiquing their ideas such as the 'School of Life' channel which has video clips on both Plato and Aristotle.

You can also research using the Philosophy books in your local libraries:

<https://library.doncaster.gov.uk/web/arena>

The Origins of Philosophical Thought- Plato

Who was Plato?

What is Rationalism and how/why does Plato think we should use it to understand reality?

What is the Cave Analogy? What are the forms? How does the Cave and the forms help us to understand Plato's views on reality?

The Origins of Philosophical Thought- Aristotle

What was Aristotle?

What is Empiricism and how/ why does Aristotle think we should use it to understand reality?

What are the Four Causes? How do the Four Causes help us to understand Aristotle's views on reality?

