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| **Are humans born good or evil?**  *Nature v nurture*: are people born with particular personality types or does everything come from our experiences?  *Social contract theory*: the idea that social rules are the only things that keep people from always acting selfishly. | **How do we know what’s real?**  *Allegory of the cave*: A man who has lived his whole life in a cave and never left it might be convinced that’s all there is to the world – but he would be wrong. **Plato** used this to show how humans should not trust what their senses or other people tell them, but instead use their own reason to understand the world.  *Brain in a jar*: a thought experiment that asks how any of us can know what is real. | | **What Is Philosophy?**  **Image result for philosophy**  ***Knowledge Organiser*** |
| **Arguments and logical fallacies**  An *argument*is seeking to persuade somebody of your view. In an argument you try to get across one big idea (the *conclusion*), supported by a number of points (*premises*).  A *valid argument* is an argument which follows logic. The premises do not contradict each other.  A *proof* is an argument which is absolutely true. This is because it is a valid argument and the premises are 100% true. Also known as a *deductive argument.*  An *inductive argument* is made up of premises that are *open* (here are a number of conclusions that could be true).  *Logic***:** using reason to draw conclusions  *Fallacy*: an error in logical thinking  *Hasty generalisation fallacy*: drawing big conclusions from limited data/evidence  *Post hoc fallacy*: saying X must have cause Y, simply because it happened just beforehand.  *Slippery slope fallacy*: assuming that one action will inevitably lead to another and another without providing evidence to show this is true. |
| **What makes me, me?**  *Psychological continuity*: as long as you have all of your memories, you’re the same person.  *Physical continuity*: as long as you are made of the same material then you are the same person.  *Spiritual continuity*: there is a core part of us that is eternal and unchanging – soul or spirit. | **What does it mean to be ‘good’ or ‘just’?**  *Veil of ignorance*: the only fair way to make decisions about how society should be arranged is to pretend you don’t know anything about the talents, abilities, tastes, social class, and positions they you will have.  *Utilitarianism*: ‘good’ is defined as bringing about the greatest happiness to the greatest number of people  *Situation* ethics: to be good is to do the most loving thing – depending on the specific situation.  *Absolute morality*: the belief that there are definite rules about what is right and wrong that can never be broken, in any time, any place.  *Moral relativism:* the belief that our sense of right and wrong varies according to where and when we are born. | |
| **Does God exist?**  *The Inconsistent Triad*: if God is both good and loving, then why do we suffer?  *Free will*: all humans choose their own actions and are responsible for the consequences |
| **Key names and quotations** | | | |
| *Socrates/Plato*: “The unexamined life is not worth living.”  *Jeremy Bentham*: “The right thing to do is the action that brings the greatest happiness to the greatest number.”  *John Rawls*: “The principles of justice are chosen behind a veil of ignorance.”  *Joseph Fletcher*: “Only one thing is intrinsically good; namely, love: nothing else at all.” | | *Epicurus*: “Either God cannot abolish evil, or He will not; if He cannot then He is not all-powerful; if He will not then He is not all-good.”  *Pascal*: “It is wiser to believe in God then to gamble that he is does not exist.”  *Mengzi*: “There is no man who is not good, just as water always flows downwards.”  *Thomas Hobbes*: “Man in a state of nature is selfish.” | |