

The Good Life – Teacher’s notes

What makes for the Good Life?

What do we need for the Good Life?

Aristotle on Flourishing

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j_7deR0idvs&list=PLLiycLlICgPE0q9BiMexLFj-1rq9GUwX&index=25

What did Aristotle think about the Good Life?

What does it mean to be virtuous? (ask after video)

What does Flourishing involve?

Can you explain a virtue and how did Aristotle measure it?

What constrains the ability of an individual to act virtuously?

What does it enable you to do? (think of Eton boys?)

Ayn Rand on selfishness

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kbfy6_fMBiw&list=PLLiycLlICgPE0q9BiMexLFj-1rq9GUwX&index=26

Does anyone know of Ayn Rand? Who is she?

How are morality and selfishness related?

What did Ayn Rand think about rationality?

How did she feel about selfishness and self-sacrifice?

What is objectivism and what is the fundamental claim? (there is objective reality and humans understand this through reason – talk about objective-subj truths)

What does she see as our ‘higher moral purpose’?

What did she think of governmental and communal action?

What does the hero of her novel ‘Atlas Shrugged’ have to say about all this?

Buddhism’s Four Noble Truths

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TK-MbNj83NM&index=27&list=PLLiycLlICgPE0q9BiMexLFj-1rq9GUwX>

What would Buddhism have to say about the Good Life?

Does anyone know about the four Noble Truths?

What are they and what do they say? (suffering inescapable, stems from greed ignorance and hatred, end it by stop craving and respond differently bring Nirvana, path to reach Nirvana through happiness and virtue – 8 fold path to enlightenment)

How does the Buddha compare life to a raft?

Max Weber Protestant Ethic

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TK-MbNj83NM&index=27&list=PLLiycLlICgPE0q9BiMexLFj-1rq9GUwX>

What role does religion play in the Good Life?

What is the Protestant Ethic?

What do (did) religious people do? (give up possessions etc)

What did Weber say about the reformation changing attitudes to work? (Calvinism)

What were the effects of this? What terrified the Calvinists?

How could they get onto God’s ‘Guest list’?

How did this help with the growth of capitalism in Europe? (lived thrifty lives – reinvest surplus)

What did a theological source give to capitalism?