



KING EDWARD VI SCHOOL

SHAKESPEARE'S SCHOOL

AS Level Philosophy Reading List

EPISTEMOLOGY

- [Audi, R. Epistemology: A Contemporary Introduction to Theory of Knowledge, Routledge 1998: a very accessible, clear, introductory text](#)
- [Ayer, A. J. The Problem of Knowledge, various editions](#): a classic of 20th-century philosophical writing about many of the central problems of epistemology, written in a clear, engaging style
- [Baggini, J. & Fosl, P. The Philosopher's Toolkit, Blackwell 2003](#): a very good compendium of clear explanations of concepts and arguments, which any student of philosophy new or old would find useful
- [Dancy, J. & Sosa, E. A Companion to Epistemology, Blackwell 1997](#): an excellent encyclopaedic reference work with an astonishing amount of useful material about different aspects of the subject in one volume
- [Lehrer, K. Theory of Knowledge, Routledge 1990](#): another good introduction, which should be accessible to readers who are less familiar with the theory of knowledge
- [O'Brien, D. An Introduction to the Theory of Knowledge, Polity 2006](#)
- [Pritchard & Neta, Arguing About Knowledge, Routledge 2008](#)
- [Russell, B. The Problems of Philosophy, various editions, e.g. Opus 2001: as with Ayer](#)
- [Williams, M. Problems of Knowledge: A Critical Introduction to Epistemology, OUP 2001](#): an excellent introduction, if a bit less easy than Audi
- Specifically on Reason and experience: [Carruthers, P. Human Knowledge and Human Nature, OUP 1992](#)

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION

- [Baggini, J. Atheism: a Very Short Introduction, OUP 2003](#)
- [Baggini, J. Philosophy: Key Themes, Palgrave MacMillan 2002](#)
- [Clack, B. & Clack, B. The Philosophy of Religion: A Critical Introduction \(2nd ed\), Polity Press 2008](#)
- [Davies, B. \(ed.\) Philosophy of Religion: a Guide and Anthology, OUP 2000](#)
- Davies, B. (ed.) Philosophy of Religion: a Guide to the Subject, Cassell 1998

- [Davies, B. An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion, OUP 1993](#)
- [Evans, C. S. Pocket Dictionary of Apologetics and Philosophy of Religion, InterVarsity Press 2002](#)
- [Hick, J. Philosophy of Religion, 4th ed., Prentice Hall 1990](#)
- [Hughes, G. Is God to Blame? \(on the problem of evil\), Veritas 2007](#)
- [Jackson, R. The God of Philosophy, The Philosopher's Magazine 2001](#)
- [Jones, G. et. al. Philosophy of Religion, John Murray 2005](#)
- [Mitchell, B. \(ed.\) The Philosophy of Religion, OUP 1971](#)
- [Palmer, M. The Philosophy of Religion: A Commentary and Sourcebook, Lutterworth 2008](#)
- [Peterson, M. et. al. Reason and Religious Belief Quinn & Taliaferro \(ed.\) A Companion to Philosophy of Religion, Blackwell 1999](#)
- [Swinburne, R. The Coherence of Theism, Clarendon Press 1993](#)
- [Vardy, P. The Puzzle of God, 3rd ed., Fount 1999](#)

A2 Level Philosophy Reading List

MORAL PHILOSOPHY

- [Baggini, J. Philosophy: Key Themes, Palgrave MacMillan 2002](#): written for the A Level
- [Barrow, R. An Introduction to Moral Philosophy and Moral Education, Routledge 2007](#)
- [Benn, P. Ethics, UCL Press 1998](#): a careful and accurate introduction across the whole range of normative and metaethical issues.
- [Blackburn, S. Being Good, OUP 2001](#): a lively, engaging, and quick introduction to the main issues of ethics, written in a very clear style.
- [Blackburn, S. Ethics: a Very Short Introduction, OUP 2003](#)
- [Crisp, R. Mill on Utilitarianism, Routledge 1997](#): a thorough, but clear, treatment of Bentham and Mill's utilitarianism
- [DeGrazia, D. Animal Rights: a Very Short Introduction, OUP 2002](#)
- [Fisher & Kirchin, Arguing About Metaethics, Routledge 2006](#)
- [Glover, J. Causing Death and Saving Lives, Penguin 1977](#): as with Singer, but more detailed
- [Hope, T. Medical Ethics: a Very Short Introduction, OUP 2004](#)
- [Jones, G. Exploring Ethics, John Murray 2000](#)
- [Mackie, J. Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong, Penguin 1977 \(or Viking 1991\)](#): the first two chapters present a powerful attack on moral realism
- [Mizzoni, J. Ethics: The Basics, Wiley-Blackwell 2009](#)
- [Norman, R. The Moral Philosophers, Clarendon Press 1983](#): one of the best introductions to the normative and metaethical theories of ethics via the great philosophers who held them. It also includes a good discussion of moral realism
- [Rachels, J. Can Ethics Provide Answers?, Rowman & Littlefield 1996](#)
- [Rachels, J. The Elements of Moral Philosophy \(5th ed.\), McGraw-Hill 2006](#): one of the clearest, mid-length introductions to ethics there is. He considers normative theories in relation to practical issues.
- [Singer, P. \(ed.\) A Companion to Ethics, Blackwell 1991: an irreplaceable resource](#). Each essay, written for the beginner, is an excellent survey of a single topic.
- [Singer, P. Practical Ethics \(2nd ed.\), CUP 1993](#): defending a utilitarian standpoint but discussing a wide range of arguments in practical ethics.
- [Smart, J. & Williams, B. Utilitarianism: For and Against, CUP 1973](#): one of the most informative discussions of utilitarianism – its structure, its motives, and its problems.
- [Stewart, N. Ethics: An Introduction to Moral Philosophy, Polity Press 2008](#)

- [Williams, B. Morality, CUP 1976](#): difficult, but excellent, discussions of subjectivism, relativism, the idea of ‘good’, and utilitarianism.

PHILOSOPHY OF MIND

- [Baggini, J. Philosophy: Key Themes, Palgrave MacMillan 2002](#): written for the A level
- [Blackmore, S. Consciousness: a Very Short Introduction, OUP 2005](#)
- [Crane, T. Elements of Mind, OUP 2002](#): an excellent, but occasionally challenging, introduction to intentionality, the mind-body problem, consciousness, propositional attitudes and perception
- [Crane, T. The Mechanical Mind, Penguin 1995](#): an excellent introduction to topics on the border between philosophy of mind and philosophy of cognitive science
- [Gertler & Shapiro, Arguing About the Mind, Routledge 2007](#)
- [Graham, G. Philosophy of Mind, Blackwell 1998](#): a very approachable and engaging introduction to many topics on the syllabus
- [Guttenplan, S. \(ed.\) Companion to Philosophy of Mind, Blackwell 1994](#): an indispensable reference work with entries on many of the concepts and topics covered in the syllabus
- [Heil, J. Philosophy of Mind: a Contemporary Introduction \(2nd ed.\), Routledge 2004](#): a solid, introductory textbook written in a clear and well-organised way with the beginner in mind
- [Kim, J. Philosophy of Mind, Westview 1996](#): as for Heil
- [Maslin, K. An Introduction to Philosophy of Mind \(2nd ed.\), Polity Press 2007](#)
- [Maslin, K. An Introduction to Philosophy of Mind, Polity Press 2001](#): written for the A level
- [Smith & Jones Philosophy of Mind, CUP 1986](#): as for Heil

General/Other Philosophy Reading List

GENERAL INTRODUCTIONS TO PHILOSOPHY

- [Blackburn, S. The Oxford Dictionary of Philosophy, OUP 1996](#)
- [Blackburn, S. Think, OUP 2001](#)
- [Craig, E. Philosophy: a Very Short Introduction, OUP 2002](#)
- [Grayling, A. \(ed.\) Philosophy: a Guide Through the Subject](#)
- [Philosophy: Further Through the Subject, OUP 1998](#): specifically written for undergraduates at the University of London, the articles give clear and concise coverage of central philosophical issues
- [Greetham, B. Philosophy, Palgrave Macmillan 2006](#)
- [Hollis, M. Invitation to Philosophy, Blackwell 1997: a longer, more demanding introduction than those above, but a model of clarity](#)
- [Horner, C. & Westacott, E. Thinking Through Philosophy, CUP 2000](#)
- [Law, S. The Outer Limits, Orion 2003](#)
- [Law, S. The Philosophy Files, Orion 2002](#)
- [Law, S. The Philosophy Gym, Hodder Headline 2003](#): all three Law books are collections of very accessible short pieces on a whole host of philosophical puzzles
- [Morton, A. Philosophy in Practice, Blackwell 1995](#): as with Hollis
- [Nagel, T. What Does It All Mean?, OUP 1987 \(reprinted 2004\)](#)
- [Teichman, J. & Evans, K. Philosophy: a Beginner's Guide, Blackwell 1991: as with Hollis](#)
- [Warburton, N. Philosophy: the Basics \(4th ed.\), Routledge 2004](#);
- [Warburton, N. Philosophy: the Essential Study Guide, Routledge 2004](#)
- [Warburton, N. Thinking from A to Z, Routledge 2000](#);

DESCARTES' MEDITATIONS

- [Baggini, J. Philosophy: Key Texts, Palgrave MacMillan 2002](#)
- [Daniel, D. Briefly: Descartes' Meditations, SCM Press 2006](#)
- [Francks, R. Descartes' Meditations, Continuum 2008](#)
- [Hatfield, G. Descartes and the Meditations, Routledge 2003](#)
- [Jones, G. et. al. The Meditations: Rene Descartes, John Murray 2006](#)
- [Skirry, J. Descartes: A Guide for the Perplexed, Continuum 2008](#)
- [Sorell, T. Descartes: a Very Short Introduction, OUP 2000](#)
- [Southwell, G. A Beginner's Guide to Descartes' Meditations, Blackwell 2008](#)
- [Williams, B. Descartes: the Project of Pure Enquiry, Penguin 1985/Routledge 2005](#)

HUME, D. AN ENQUIRY CONCERNING HUMAN UNDERSTANDING

- [Ayer, A. J. Hume: a Very Short Introduction, OUP 2000](#)
- [Baggini, J. Philosophy: Key Texts, Palgrave MacMillan 2002](#)
- [Bailey & O'Brien, Hume's Enquiry concerning Human Understanding, Continuum 2006](#)
- [Coventry, A. Hume: A Guide for the Perplexed, Continuum 2007](#)
- [Daniels, D. Briefly: Hume's Enquiry concerning Human Understanding, SCM Press 2007](#)
- [Noonan, H. Hume on Knowledge, Routledge 1999](#)
- *Compiled by D.C. Leach (Last update 3 January 2017)*