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# Year 8 Homework Booklet

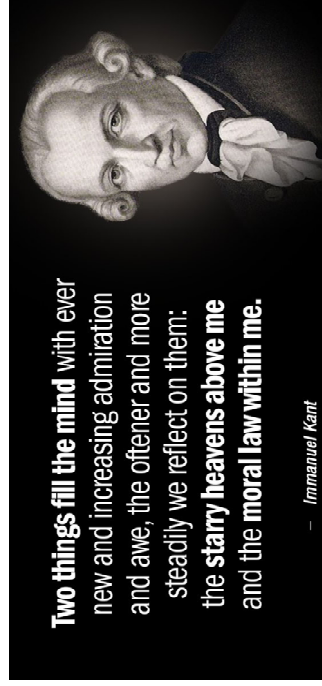
# Faith & Ethics



## Term 3—Metaphysics and Marx

### Scholars Pathway

What you do not want  
others to do to you do  
not do to others.  
—Confucius



Two things fill the mind with ever new and increasing admiration and awe, the oftener and more steadily we reflect on them: the starry heavens above me and the moral law within me.

— Immanuel Kant



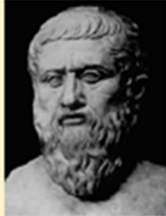
"The question is not, "Can they reason?" nor, "Can they talk?" but "Can they suffer?"  
— JEREMY BENTHAM INTRODUCTION TO THE PRINCIPLES OF MORALS AND LEGISLATION (1789)

My teacher is going to test me on all of my homework on this day every week.	MONDAY TUESDAY WEDNESDAY THURSDAY FRIDAY
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Metaphysics

Plato believed that the only way to have true knowledge was to look beyond this world to the world of the forms. The Forms are metaphysical (non physical) ideas and concepts that are unchanging and perfect. Only philosophers (who know the difference between appearance and the actual reality of things) can have knowledge of the forms (remember this is why Plato things they should be in charge of running society).



Plato

Everything in this world is a copy.

Total out of /10

*Everything this world is imperfect. We exist in a state of flux/ change (i.e. in time) and therefore nothing is ever perfect. If nothing in this world is ever perfect and is in a state of flux we cannot have true knowledge of it.*

**NB: When Plato talks of knowledge he means that which we can be absolutely sure of – that which we call truth!**

This is truth in the philosophical sense. Truth is that which is true at all times and is unchanging. This is not scientific proof which is based on an interpretation of evidence (which may be wrong).

Why is this idea important to philosophy?

In traditional philosophy we can only have knowledge of things that are unchanging. 'Truth' is unchanging in traditional philosophy and therefore we cannot have it of this world. If we want truth (which is what knowledge is) then we must look elsewhere for it.

**For Plato then, we can only have true knowledge of those things that exist outside of this world that are unchanging.**  
*I.e. Metaphysical Ideas*

Who gives us the theory of the forms? \_\_\_\_\_

What are the forms? \_\_\_\_\_

Who has access to the forms?

Why are the things in this world imperfect? \_\_\_\_\_

Why can't we have true knowledge of things in this world? \_\_\_\_\_

What does Plato mean by knowledge? \_\_\_\_\_

What is truth in the philosophy? \_\_\_\_\_

Why is this idea of truth and knowledge important in philosophy? \_\_\_\_\_

According to Plato we can only have knowledge of ... \_\_\_\_\_

Research: When did Plato live? \_\_\_\_\_

## Descartes and Doubt

*"All that I have, up to this moment, accepted as possessed of the highest truth and certainty, I received either from or through the senses. I observed, however, that these sometimes misled us; and it is the part of prudence not to place absolute confidence in that by which we have even once been deceived"*  
**- Meditation 1, paragraph 3. Using this answer the two questions below:**

1. Where do we get truth from? \_\_\_\_\_
  2. Why can't we trust this truth? \_\_\_\_\_
- 

Descartes went through a PROCESS of doubt (methodological scepticism) this is the process by which we doubt what we think we know to get to what we do know! This is not the same as regular scepticism. Regular scepticism simply denies knowledge and evidence and is counter to the goals of philosophy (to seek out knowledge). Sat drinking wine and eating cheese in front of his open fire, he contemplates whether in fact what he sees before him really exists. What about this wine, cheese and warm fire? Can I be sure that these exist and that I am not really being deceived by an evil genius (a mal genie). The mal genie is a character made up to highlight that we could in fact be part of a grand illusion and the things we perceive through the sense may or may not even be there.

3. What is Methodological scepticism? (or method of doubt). \_\_\_\_\_
  4. How does it differ to regular scepticism? \_\_\_\_\_
  5. Why is regular scepticism the enemy of philosophy? \_\_\_\_\_
  6. What is the role of the Mal Genie? \_\_\_\_\_
- 

When Descartes enquired into what he could and could not doubt he then thought about his own existence. He concluded that because he was a thinking thing and could go through the process of doubt he as a metaphysical mind HAD TO EXIST. This became the 'cogito ergo sum'. 'I think therefore I exist'.

7. What could Descartes not doubt? \_\_\_\_\_
  8. Why could he not doubt this? \_\_\_\_\_
  9. What types of things can be doubted and what can't be doubted? (key words metaphysical and physical things). \_\_\_\_\_
  10. What is the Cogito? \_\_\_\_\_
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# Hume

**Homework 3:**

**Date Set:**

**Date Due:**

Hume points out that we think that we know a lot of stuff. How do we know it? Most of it is unobserved. We rely on 2nd hand knowledge. Hume makes a distinction in knowledge about the different types of knowledge we have. He categorised them as 'matters of fact' and the relation of ideas. Relations of Ideas: "Something whose denial is inconceivable or self-contradictory" In other relations of ideas are truths you can't deny e.g.  $2+2 = 4$ . We know them through simply thinking about them! We don't evidence to support it. We know it through what Hume called and operation of thought. Matters of fact: To deny them is not automatically a contradiction. I.e. it is raining outside. It may be raining or it may not. For Hume these are harder to prove but they are actually more important as they can actually tell us something about the world worth knowing! Not like relations of ideas!

1. Where does most of our knowledge come from? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What are matters of fact? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What 'relation of ideas'? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Give an example of a relation of ideas \_\_\_\_\_
5. Give an example of a matter of fact \_\_\_\_\_

Hume wanted to clear up what we mean by knowledge. There are certain things that are true "no matter what" (relations of ideas) but these only account for a proportion of our knowledge and are only helpful in part of our lives. The most important philosophical position for a philosopher is to reject disinformation and claims of fact that are really opinions masquerading as fact.

6. What is the most important position for a philosopher to hold? \_\_\_\_\_

**Hume makes it clear that even in all matters of 'fact' (that knowledge that we arrive at through observation and 'evidence') is not necessarily 'true' in the same way that matters of relation are.**

**When we makes claims of fact based on observation we are using inductive arguments. We infer a conclusion based on evidence, observation and experience. However we have made something called an 'inductive leap'. We have 'inferred' a conclusion based on our evidence, our existing knowledge and the way we see the world (person bias).**

7. What is an inductive argument? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What is an inductive leap? \_\_\_\_\_

This is what Hume calls the **problem of induction**. This is important in debates about 'knowledge' especially when 'knowledge' is used to underpin certain truth claims or used to make decisions that affect our lives i.e. in ethics etc. Inductive arguments (scientific arguments) use evidence to generate a conclusion. But we have to make the leap (inductive leap) between the evidence and the conclusion. The smaller our evidence bank, the greater the inductive leap and the less certain we are that our conclusion is 'true'.

9. What is the problem of induction? \_\_\_\_\_

We may also assume that "The Future will resemble the past" In the case of fire being hot this seems like a reasonable thing to assume. Hume says this is because of something called: "THE UNIFORMITY OF NATURE" – The idea that world nature generally remains the same and repeats patterns. Whilst we might assume that the sun will rise tomorrow we cannot guarantee that it will.

10. What is the uniformity of nature? \_\_\_\_\_

# Marx

Homework 4:

Date Set:

Date Due:

Born in 1818, Karl Marx was an atheist, although he was brought up religious. Marx studied philosophy at university before becoming a writer, economist and political philosopher. Karl Marx argued that it was immoral for a society to have big differences between the lives of the rich and the poor. He believed that those with money and power exploited the poorest in society. He argued that those in power and those with money kept people poor so that they would be dependant on them for their existence; so that they would have no other choice but to do as they were told and live in the conditions they were forced to live in.

1. When was Karl Marx born? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What was Marx's occupation? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What did Marx believe? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What did he argue about those in power? \_\_\_\_\_

Marx was witness to the poverty and dangerous working conditions that the British poor had to endure during the industrial revolution.

Christianity had always taught that those who work hard prosper but Marx saw that this was just not the case. This meant that those who were poor where poor because they didn't work hard enough or they were being punished by God for their sin. Those who worked the hardest (the workers of the industrial revolution) suffered whilst those who did the least work (factory owners, land owners, mine owners) reaped all the benefit.

5. What did Marx witness during the industrial revolution? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What did Christianity teach? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What was really the case? \_\_\_\_\_

Political philosophers today argue that there is not much change in mind-sets and the distribution of wealth today. The 8 wealthiest men in the world have the same combined wealth as the bottom 50% of the whole world's population (nearly 4 billion people). They argue that the poor continue to be exploited by the rich but that we see it less 1. because we are socially conditioned to see it as 'just the way things are', 2. we have moved exploitation out of sight, to other countries and 3. we still believe that the only reason people suffer because of poverty is because it is their own fault.

8. What is the wealth of the 8 wealthiest men in the world equivalent too? \_\_\_\_\_

9&10. Give two reasons why the poor continue to be exploited today. \_\_\_\_\_

Total out of /10

# Capitalism

Homework 5:

Date Set:

Date Due:

Definition: Capitalism is an economic and political system in which a country's trade and industry are controlled by private owners for profit, rather than by the state. Most world economies are what we call capitalist. This means that individuals buy and sell to make as much profit as possible. The whole country is run by people 'buying and selling'. We may buy and sell goods or we may actually buy and sell labour. What this means is that I sell someone my time and my labour (I get a wage).

The problem with Capitalism is that in its truest form, it is not regulated. This means that many governments do not want to interfere and want the economy to run itself. In reality this means that people can get paid VERY little for their labour but have to pay out A LOT for goods such as food, shelter and water.

The whole aim of Capitalism is for individuals to make as much profit as possible. Often at any cost.

1. What is the definition of Capitalism? \_\_\_\_\_

2. How does Capitalism work? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What can we 'buy or sell'? \_\_\_\_\_

4. What is one of the main problems with Capitalism? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Why is this a problem? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the total aim for Capitalism? \_\_\_\_\_

At the time Marx is writing in Britain, the economy was completely unregulated. Vast numbers of people would be paid as little as possible so that a few people who owned 'the means of production' (i.e. factories that made stuff) could make as much profit as possible. Today in Britain there is a call for tighter regulations on Capitalism. Some political parties push for regulations of the economy to protect the most vulnerable/ poor and others see this as an infliction on freedom. One example of a regulation on Capitalism is the 1998 legislation brought in by a labour government to create a minimum wage for all workers.

For Marx under Capitalism the vast majority of people are exploited. People are not paid a fair wage for the work that they do. During Marx's time a few people had all the wealth and the vast majority of people were struggling to survive from one day to the next. Marx saw that this was immoral.

7. At the time of Marx's writing was the economy regulated? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What do we mean by the means of production? \_\_\_\_\_

9. What are the two main political attitudes to regulating capitalism? \_\_\_\_\_

10. What is an example of regulated capitalism? \_\_\_\_\_

# Capitalism as immoral and reckless

Karl Marx argued that it was immoral (wrong) that some people have huge wealth and that others are so poor. Marx argued that we are convinced either by religion or by society that those who have money have it because they 'work hard'. Whilst that may be the case for some people at lower levels, those with excessive wealth gain wealth by exploitation according to Marx.

Karl Marx says that this exploitation is **NOT ONLY IMMORAL** but also **economically reckless**. He argued that Capitalism is a risky way to run the economy.

When there are less workers, factory owners (bosses) are forced to pay their workers more as they need the work force. When there are lots of workers the factory owners allow the workers to compete against each other for jobs and so they can get away with paying very little in wages.

However, this is one of the inner contradictions of capitalism.

Bosses pay workers a small wage to make their goods (stuff). Yet they want to sell it for as much as possible. Karl Marx says this causes problems over time.

1. If you pay people only enough to cover their basic needs (food and shelter) they CANNOT BUY THE STUFF.
2. If people are not buying the stuff, the manufacturers (bosses) have to get rid of workers.
3. Less people in work means even less money is being spent.
4. More businesses go under/ bust.
5. More people lose their jobs.
6. The economy goes into a crisis. (Like that of 1929 when the US stock market crashed or in 2010 in the UK when the world saw a crash in the economy).

1. What did Marx see as immoral? \_\_\_\_\_
2. Marx argues that capitalism is not only immoral but is \_\_\_\_\_
3. What is the inner contradiction of capitalism in relation to paying the least amount of money in wages \_\_\_\_\_

4. Why does the economy go into crisis? \_\_\_\_\_

Another contradiction of capitalism is the introduction of labour saving machinery.

To further increase profits owners devalue workers wages by the introduction of labour saving machinery. One machine can do the work of several people. Marx saw an increase in this during the industrial revolution. It devalued wages as human labour was less desirable and meant that there was higher unemployment. Higher unemployment meant more poverty and forced wages down again as there was more competition for jobs. Bosses could barter for wages below any reasonable standard.

5. What is another contradiction of capitalism? \_\_\_\_\_
6. How are workers wages devalued? 1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

A risky business model: Capitalism is a bad economic model according to Marx because this economic model is risky, over time many governments put measures in place to stop people getting exploited. In the UK (because of socialist governments in the past) we now have a minimum wage, meaning that no one can be paid a ridiculously low amount for their labour. There are also child labour laws, a maximum 40 hour working week, maternity pay etc. However, many capitalist countries, including the USA are completely against any intervention and help.

7. Why did this risky business model lead socialist governments to put regulations in place? \_\_\_\_\_
8. What are two examples of intervention? 1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_



## Marx:

Why not revolt? Marx said that the economy (and the country) is run off the hard work of millions of working people. They do all the work and therefore they should have the real benefits of their hard work. Marx saw children working 16 hour days, exhausted and starving, whilst those who watched them work and made all the profits enjoyed a very happy life without doing anything hardly at all.

Marx argued that the Capitalist system is so rigged in favour of the rich that it is almost impossible to challenge it. The rich have convinced the poor that they can't survive without the rich, that they should be grateful for what they have. That any revolution or revolt against the rich would only make things worse. Marx argued that the opposite was actually the case. By getting rid of Capitalism and replacing it with a society where everyone was equal, got equal pay and did jobs that they were best suited to, they could create a fair and stable economy that worked for everyone.

1. What did Marx argue about the system? \_\_\_\_\_

2. What have the rich convinced the poor? \_\_\_\_\_

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3. What did Marx say about getting rid of Capitalism? \_\_\_\_\_

Many (religious) people believed that something had to change and that working people could not be treated so badly. Some Christians worked incredibly hard to petition the government to bring in regulations to stop the exploitation of young people in particular. Over time the government FINALLY brought in child labour laws that made it illegal for children to work excessively long hours.

4. What did some Christians do? \_\_\_\_\_

5. Under pressure, what did the government finally bring in? \_\_\_\_\_

Oppression: Cruel and unjust treatment often by those in a position of authority. Marx believed that the masses (the large population of working class and unemployed) were constantly and consistently oppressed throughout history. He believed that this oppression was to the benefit of those in power and to the detriment of others. He believed that this oppression was not just unjust and immoral because of the physical stress the conditions of the poor had to deal with but because of the **mental** pressure and distress this caused.

Mental stress of the poor: *some ideas* Constant anxiety over where the next meal will come from and how you will feed your children. No access to medical care for children who are sick often (working in the mills causing a wide range of respiratory problems). Significant numbers of your children dying. Worrying you will end up in the poor house and be separated from your parents or your children. Mothers separated from their very young children. Living in squalid conditions, poor ventilation, cramped, wet damp houses that caused disease and spread disease. Alcohol addictions were common even in children to help block out the depression caused by poverty. Feeling of despair.

6. What is oppression? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What type of stresses does oppression cause? \_\_\_\_\_

8. Give 3 examples of mental stress of the poor

A) \_\_\_\_\_

B) \_\_\_\_\_

C) \_\_\_\_\_