Sample stimulus and support material

A range of stimulus materials can be used (text, film, literature, newspaper stories) to help generate big questions which can start the philosophical enquiry. The following materials are presented as examples and should not be regarded as prescribed texts.

**Strand 1: Foundations for doing philosophy**

**Background reading on teaching philosophy**

*Creative Philosophical Enquiry – Twelve tools for talking and thinking* (Cape UK)


Robert Fisher, article ‘Philosophy in primary schools: fostering thinking skills and literacy’


Peter Worley (2011) *The If machine: Philosophical Enquiry in the Classroom*. Bloomsbury

**Useful weblinks**

Philosophy for Children (P4C) Cooperative website  http://p4c.com/

Squire foundation  http://squirefoundation.org/curricula/

University of Washington centre for P4C  http://depts.washington.edu/nwcenter/

SAPERE a UK based teacher training P4C charity  http://sapere.org.uk/

Directed by Tom Wartenberg this site contains courses and resources for teaching philosophy to primary school children  http://www.teachingchildrenphilosophy.org/wiki/Sample_Courses

A site that offers visitors the opportunity to post a question and have it answered by a team of professional philosophers -  http://www.askphilosophers.org/

Six famous animated thought experiments lasting 60 seconds each -  http://www.openculture.com/2011/10/60_second_adventures_in_thought.html
An overview of fallacies with examples - [http://onegoodmove.org/fallacy/toc.htm](http://onegoodmove.org/fallacy/toc.htm)

Edward De Bono, Critical and Creative Thinking (CoRT) tools for schools -

Daniel Dennett: Tools to Improve our Thinking [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJsD-3jtXz0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EJsD-3jtXz0)

Ideas to help generate good questions


Videos and podcasts

*60 second adventures in philosophy* YouTube

*Crash course in philosophy* YouTube

*Philosophy Bites podcasts* [http://tunein.com/radio/Philosophy-Bites-p454035/](http://tunein.com/radio/Philosophy-Bites-p454035/)

*A history of ideas BBC4 podcasts* [http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04bwydw](http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04bwydw)

*The Matrix* movie clip ‘What is real?’ [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnEYHQ9dscY](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WnEYHQ9dscY)

Suitable for students


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**Strand 2: Philosophy of Knowledge**

Introduction to Phil of Knowledge
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQ0f9jJBgyY&list=PLtKNX4SFKpzWo1oaSZmNPOzZaQdHw3Tle](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wQ0f9jJBgyY&list=PLtKNX4SFKpzWo1oaSZmNPOzZaQdHw3Tle)

Puzzles in Epistemology
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SKmqh5Eu4Y&list=PLtKNX4SFKpzUURFV6ucpn2TGaZYqXyrai](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_SKmqh5Eu4Y&list=PLtKNX4SFKpzUURFV6ucpn2TGaZYqXyrai)

Responses to scepticism [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xehTcQeqDWs](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xehTcQeqDWs)

Thought experiments such as Plutarch’s *Ship of Theseus*

John Searle’s Chinese Room’s experiment explained in a short animation (Open University 60 second adventures in thought) [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TryOC83PH1g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TryOC83PH1g)

Video clip such as Steven Johnson ‘Where do Good Ideas Come From?’
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NugRZGDbPFU&index=21&list=PL1067D58F2AED8DD2](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NugRZGDbPFU&index=21&list=PL1067D58F2AED8DD2)

Movie clips such as The Matrix and the Trumann Show
Strand 3: Philosophy of language

Introduction to Philosophy of Language  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hoDNZoV5g](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6hoDNZoV5g)

Puzzles in philosophy of language  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LxlvDOTjpg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2LxlvDOTjpg)

YouTube clip from BBC which explains Wittgenstein’s idea of the Beetle in the Box  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x86hLtOkou8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x86hLtOkou8)

A children’s story to prompt discussion about the nature of language  [http://www.teachingchildrenphilosophy.org/BookModule/KnuffleBunny](http://www.teachingchildrenphilosophy.org/BookModule/KnuffleBunny)

Video clips such as:

- Short animated video ‘Language as a window into human nature’  [www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-son3EJTrU&list=PL1067D58F2ADE8DD2&index=20](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3-son3EJTrU&list=PL1067D58F2ADE8DD2&index=20)

- Documentary showing how Koko the Gorilla learned to use language with her owner  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teB-lcрог6Е](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=teB-lcрог6Е)

- ‘Koko the Gorilla Cries Over the Loss of a Kitten’  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQCOHUXmEZg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CQCOHUXmEZg)

Strand 4: Philosophy of art

A vast range of art works, mediums and genres can be considered, compared and contrasted.

The Guardian Newspaper is a useful resource, especially sections on culture, art and design  [https://www.theguardian.com/uk/culture](https://www.theguardian.com/uk/culture)

News reports, such as this story about the most expensive painting sold to date (Sept 2015)  [http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1917097_1917096_1917100,00.html](http://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/article/0,28804,1917097_1917096_1917100,00.html)

Landfill Harmonic - the "Recycled Orchestra". An inspiring story about how young people created an orchestra out of rubbish  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYbORpgSmjg](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yYbORpgSmjg)

Alain De Botton, (2006) The Architecture of Happiness, discusses the nature of beauty in architecture and how it is related to the well-being and general contentment of the individual and society.

Strand 5: Philosophy of sport

Zola Budd and Mary Decker trip 1984. Related concepts include judgement, competition, fair/unfair, winner/loser  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vocnnsNKgU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5vocnnsNKgU)

Derek Redmond 1986 Olympic clip. Related concepts include motivation, discipline, competition, team  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZlXWp6vFdE](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kZlXWp6vFdE)

National Geographic Clip on Shaolin Monks and Qi-Gong. Concepts include mind/body relationship,  [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tX8mGt0K_JI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tX8mGt0K_JI)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strand 6: Philosophy of science</th>
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<tr>
<td>Karl Popper on Science as Falsification: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf-sGqBsWv4">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wf-sGqBsWv4</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Scientific Method: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Vf1Wat2y8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Vf1Wat2y8</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Short video clips:</td>
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<td><strong>Pale Blue Dot: Cosmos A space time odyssey</strong> <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XH7ZRF6zNoc">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XH7ZRF6zNoc</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Samsara food production sequence</strong>. Opens discussion on scientific progress, method, rights, responsibilities, knowledge, ethics. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k56NBsZXjr8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=k56NBsZXjr8</a></td>
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<td><strong>Top 5 Nanotechnology Revolution Facts</strong>. Partly animated presentation of the potential and progress of nanotechnology <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeHwddyvJ-w">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FeHwddyvJ-w</a></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Creepily realistic robot can hold conversations and answer questions</strong>. Explores themes around artificial intelligence and concept of consciousness. <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilhVu2hxm07E&amp;list=PLlqPYPy6Bk6SpD0EnhRy055nIxLNqN4S&amp;index=2">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ilhVu2hxm07E&amp;list=PLlqPYPy6Bk6SpD0EnhRy055nIxLNqN4S&amp;index=2</a></td>
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<th>Strand 7: Moral philosophy</th>
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<tr>
<td>Stephen Law, <em>The Philosophy Files</em>, File 6, Where do right and wrong come from?</td>
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<tr>
<td>BBC website - <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/">http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/introduction/</a></td>
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<td>BBC 4 website – 5 modern dilemmas philosophy can help with <a href="http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/w0x3fNP8Szz6Kp6fk52FMt/5-modern-dilemmas-philosophy-can-help-with/">http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/articles/w0x3fNP8Szz6Kp6fk52FMt/5-modern-dilemmas-philosophy-can-help-with/</a></td>
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<tr>
<td>Thought Experiments such as:</td>
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<td>Philippa Foot ‘The Trolley Problem’</td>
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<td>Nozick’s ‘The Experience Machine’</td>
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<tr>
<td>Short video clips:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>YouTube has an abundance of short videos suitable for exploring questions of moral philosophy.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
These are just a sample:

‘Black Hole’ The National Film Board of Canada. Explores concepts of Greed, Theft, Natural Justice, Consequences [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Un20p1NGuw](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3Un20p1NGuw)

‘This is not my hat’ Jon Klassen. Picture book available on YouTube. Explores concepts including Subjective, Objective, Moral, Right, Relative, Responsibility, Consequence, Justice, Punishment [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wLdNUabNp0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3wLdNUabNp0)

Moral Dilemma in *The Dark Knight* Film [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4GAQtGtd_0](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K4GAQtGtd_0)

A Selection of Moral Dilemmas: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7RTykOCcuI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z7RTykOCcuI)

Ethics of drones: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhkD--W6gB4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZhkD--W6gB4)

### Strand 8: Social and political philosophy

News reports, documentaries, extracts from films, novels (e.g. Lord of the Flies) , video clips

### Strand 9: Philosophy of education


Noam Chomsky talks about how ‘Education makes you stupid!’ on this short video: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bR8hfUkmk6Q](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bR8hfUkmk6Q)

### Strand 10: Philosophy of religion


Novels (such as Elie Weisel’s ‘Night’ or Viktor Fankl’s ‘*Man Search for meaning*’ for examining the problem of evil and human suffering

BBC Bitesize Religious, Moral and Philosophical Studies [http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z6ngjxs](http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/z6ngjxs)

BBC Guides [http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zcnm82p](http://www.bbc.co.uk/guides/zcnm82p)

Good and Bad Reasons for Believing, Richard Dawkins: [http://thankgodforevolution.com/node/1950](http://thankgodforevolution.com/node/1950)
**Philosophical writing in Irish**


Mac Tomáis, S. (1935) *Tosnú na Fealsúnachta (The beginning of philosophy)—Selected Pre-Socratics*

Mac Tomáis, S. (1929) *Breith Bháis ar an Eagnaidhe (The thinker sentenced to death)—Three dialogues of Plato*


Mac Tomáis, S. (1928) *An seana-shaol Gréagach (The old Greek way of life)—Selections from Herodotus*


Ó Doibhlin, B. (1994) *Smaointe (Thoughts)—Pascal’s Pensées*. BÁC: Coiscéim

Ó Doibhlin, B. (2001) *Deascán as na hAistí (A selection from the Essays)—Montaigne*. BÁC: Coiscéim

Ó Glaisne, R. (1994) *Teilhard de Chardin i gCuibhrinn Éireannach (Teilhard de Chardin in an Irish Context):* BÁC: Coiscéim


Mac an tSionnaigh, S. agus Ulbh Eachach, O. (eds) (2016, in press) *An Fhealsúnacht, an tSíceolaíocht, agus an Litríocht (Philosophy, Psychology and Literature).* BÁC: Coiscéim

**Reference Books**


**Sample websites**

http://lingvo.info/ga/babylon/philosophy

https://ga.wikipedia.org/wiki/Feals%C3%BAnacht


http://www.irishtimes.com/culture/treibh/feals%C3%BAnacht-sna-scoileanna-agus-ceisteanna-saoil-1.1608070

http://nos.ie/gniomhiochas/saorsmaointeoir-eireann/