

Philosophy, Psychology and Ethics

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Australia 2010s

During the break we have expanded the category Philosophy and Ethics, to include Psychology, and more topics on this subject will be added as the year progresses. We have created thirteen new topics in the last term, and added many new sections as well as updating existing sections throughout the database. The latest topic to be added is Australia: 2010s in the Australian History category. This topic will be “under construction” for the next decade as events unfold for Australia and the world.

We wish all our subscribers a successful Term 3 and hope to see many of you at the SLAQ/IASL Conference in Brisbane in September.

Philosophy, Psychology and Ethics

Introduction to Psychology

As the title suggests, this topic gives Year 11 students the foundations for a study of psychology. After the general section, various research methods are examined and students are guided to resources on the history of psychology. Ethical considerations in psychological research are covered and guides for report writing are given. Finally, the For Teachers section offers materials for classroom use.

Altered States of Awareness

This topic explores the mind’s activity during times when we are not fully conscious of our immediate surroundings. The areas of experience currently covered are meditation, sleep and dreams together with sleepwalking and sleepwalking. Hypnosis is examined as well as out-of-body and near-death experiences. The final section contains

lesson plans, and other resources for the classroom.

Personality theories

People have always been fascinated, disturbed and delighted by the different personalities they have to deal with in their everyday relationships. What makes people behave the way they do? Many psychologists have spent their lives exploring this absorbing topic and have come up with several theories. The theories examined in this collection of links are type, trait, psychodynamic, behaviourist, humanistic and cognitive theories. Teaching materials are found at the end.

Developmental psychology

The study of developmental psychology examines the mental and emotional changes that occur throughout the life span. This topic covers the following developmental stages: prenatal development, infancy, early childhood, mid-late childhood, adolescence, early adulthood, middle age and late adulthood. Lesson plans are found in the final section.

Social Sciences

Group and Crowd Behaviour

It is often surprising to see how a person’s behavior can change when he/she becomes part of a large group. This topic explores the psychological theories that explain why these changes take place. After the initial general section, the other sections cover various theories and models with special attention to the Contagion Theory of Gustav Le Bon. Other sections deal with crowd behaviour in concert audiences, in emergencies and

at sporting events. Teachers can find classroom applications in the last section.



Crowd at Panjiri Greek Festival, Brisbane

Super-heroes

Stories of super-heroic feats have been the stuff of fairytales for generations. This topic, however, concentrates on the modern variety with special emphasis being given to Batman, Captain Marvel, Cyborg, Spiderman, Superman and Wonder Woman. Articles, worksheets and other lesson ideas are located in the For Teachers section.

Economics and Business

Economic Systems

The recent past has given everyone an opportunity to see how the various economic systems of the world have coped with the global financial crisis. The initial section gives an overview of these economic systems, while the second section examines contemporary international economic conditions. The topic then branches out to deal with specific countries and how their

economies are structured. Currently the list includes Australia, Britain, China, France, Germany, Greece, Iceland, Sweden and other Scandinavian countries, and lastly the United States of America. Lesson plans are found at the end.

Life Sciences

Mass Extinctions

We are all familiar with the dinosaurs and fossilized creatures and plants which became extinct in prehistoric times, but it is shocking to discover just how many species have become extinct within the last 200 years as a result of the human impact on the ecological systems of the globe. This topic covers the major and minor mass extinction events of the distant past as well as what has happened in modern times and continues to happen in our own lifetime. Teaching materials are found in the last section.

Arts, Music and Sports

Sociology of Sport

The ways in which sport is organized and promoted reflect and highlight some of the glaring problems and issues in wider society. In this topic, students will research aspects of the sporting culture which will, without doubt, have already affected them personally. The sections of the topic cover the following aspects: body image and self-concept, equitable media coverage and gender stereotyping in the mass media, stereotyping of “dumb jocks”, males and females and different racial groups, sports uniforms, and sponsorship and commercialization. Teachers can find ideas for lesson plans in the last section.

National Sports

In a world of international sporting events covered by global media corporations, it is fascinating to consider some of the lesser known sporting traditions of specific nations and regions. This topic currently focuses on buzkashi in Afghanistan, pato in Argentina, kabaddi in Bangladesh, capoeira in Brazil, Chilean rodeo, pesäpallo in Finland, hurling in Ireland, sumo wrestling in Japan and taekwondo in Korea.

World Literature

Shakespeare, William: The Merchant of Venice

This topic offers students an in-depth study of Shakespeare’s play. The first two sections contain a collection of texts of the play and plot summaries. The following sections deal with literary criticism, character analysis, themes and symbols, the cultural context, anti-Semitism and the setting. Lesson plans including several interactive sites are available in the For Teachers section.

Modern World History

World War 2: Social aspects

Regardless of time and place, war always has a massive impact on civilians whether they are living in the war zone or far away. This topic investigates how World War 2 changed the lives of civilians in various countries, and shows how some of those changes still influence the way we live our lives today. The countries and regions include Asia, Australia, Britain, France, Germany and other European countries, and the United States of America. Classroom materials are found at the end.

Geography

China: 21st Century

As China emerges as a global leader and becomes one of Australia’s largest trading partners, it is important for students to understand the politics and culture of that nation. After the general introductory section, the topic looks at the political situation between China and Hong Kong, Taiwan and Tibet. The human rights issue regarding the Uighur minority is also covered. The way the economy of China is growing and the impact that economic growth has on the environment is examined with specific attention to the Three Gorges Dam, desertification and the impact of global warming. There are sections on issues which affect the Chinese people on a personal level such as the boom in cosmetic surgery and the attempt by the government to

control population growth by the one-child policy. Classroom resources are found in the final section.

Australian History

Australia 2010s

This is a tiny topic at present, but will expand as time goes on. Currently the sections cover global events this year, Australia: 2010s: General sites, refugees, the Minerals Resource Rent Tax, the ALP leadership spill and Julia Gillard.

New Sections

Religions

World Religions

Christianity and women
Sikhism and women

Judaism

Judaism: History
The Inquisition and Judaism

Economics and Business

Marketing

Beach Volleyball: Marketing

Chemistry and Earth Sciences

Volcanoes

Volcanoes: Eyjafjallajökull, Iceland 2010

Life Sciences

World biomes

Freshwater: Pollution

Assisted Reproductive

Technologies (ART)

Pre-natal testing

World Literature

Shakespeare, William

Shakespeare, William: Portrayals of women

Ancient and Medieval History

Middle Ages

Famous Knights

Australian History

Queensland-Biography

Watson, Jessica b. 1993

