**To understand what philosophy is and to confirm you want to study it, read at least the first two chapters of Nagel’s *What Does It All Mean?*** (<https://practicalphilosophy.in/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/WHAT-DOES-IT-ALL-MEAN.pdf>)

**The following questions have been debated for centuries, so you don’t need to provide a conclusive ‘answer’, but nonetheless you should be able to give your thoughts on some of the following:**

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| Can you know that you aren’t currently dreaming? |
| Can you know that you aren’t currently in a simulation (like in *The Matrix*)? |
| Are you the same person as yesterday? What about several years ago? What features, if any, make ‘you now’ the same person as ‘you in the past’? |
| Over time, I repair my well-used broom, giving it a new handle, new bristles, and so on, until every part of the original broom has been replaced. Is it the same broom? If not, at which point did it stop being the same broom? |
| If someone in deep poverty steals food to feed their children, have they done anything wrong? Should they be punished? |
| Why is there something rather than nothing? Where does the universe come from? |

**Write down your thoughts on as many of the questions as you are able. You might like to discuss these questions with friends/family/etc. Good luck!**

**Extension: philosophy is not just about discussion, but also about *written* argument, and this is what you will ultimately be assessed on in exams - so research in greater detail one of the questions above and write an essay (at least 1-2 sides long) on it**

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| Make sure to include:   * An introduction (what answer will you give to this question? why?) * Several arguments for and against your answer (try to alternate between them, and respond to arguments against your answer as best you can) * A conclusion (what answer have you given to this question, and how have you argued for it?) | A possible structure:   * This essay will argue that … * One argument for this position is that … * One argument against this position is that … * A response to this argument is … * … * … * In conclusion, this essay has shown that … |