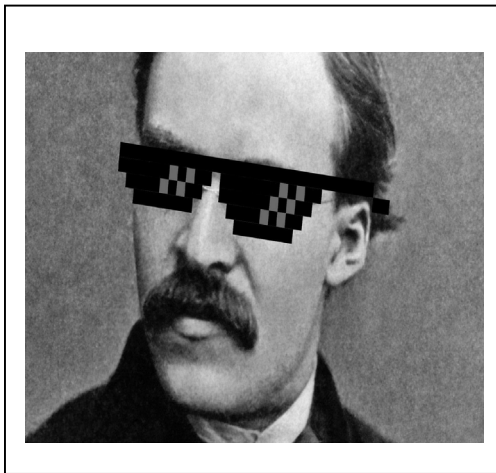


SWINBURNE  
SENIOR SECONDARY COLLEGE

# Philosophy HOLIDAY HOMEWORK 2020



<b>Teacher/Subject Coordinator Contact:</b>	Rachel Baxendale Rachel.baxendale@sssc.vic.edu.au
<b>Holiday Homework Required:</b>	As attached
<b>Recommended Work:</b>	As above
<b>Resources Required for the Subject:</b>	Textbook on text list All readings will be supplied <b>Philosophy Study Design</b> <a href="https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/philosophy/2019PhilosophySD.pdf">https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/philosophy/2019PhilosophySD.pdf</a>

## **We will be beginning Unit 3 Philosophy exploring notions of Personal Identity.**

Modern philosophers have explored the question of the continuity of the self over time. They have attempted to identify the basis on which we say, for example, that an individual is the same person at 80 as they were at eight years old. Self, in this sense, is a contested term that refers to what is most essential about ourselves as a particular entity distinguished from others, if anything.

In this area of study students explore selected positions on personal identity and the arguments for and against them. In doing so, students consider the implications of views on personal identity for personal responsibility of past actions and personal concern for future happiness. Students consider how thought experiments can be used to explore and challenge theories of personal identity. A range of relevant thought experiments is to be sourced from within the set texts where possible and beyond the set texts as appropriate. Students apply their understanding of philosophical concepts and problems related to personal identity to analyses of contemporary debates such as organ transplants and cloning.

### **HOMEWORK TASK:**

#### **Answer the following questions for 3 of the listed medical procedures:**

- What is involved in this procedure?
- What are its most extreme or controversial forms?
- What implications do such procedures have for the problem of human identity?
- Should the subject be considered the same person following this procedure? Justify your response. (To help you answer this question you may want to reference Theories of Personal Identity Table which has been attached).

#### **Medical Procedures for Investigation:**

- Cosmetic surgery to alter physical appearance
- Organ transplants – from humans and animals
- Electronic/ robotic human parts
- Memory erasure Cloning
- Neuropharmacology – drug treatments that alter the way the brain operates
- Genetic engineering
- Anti-ageing drugs with the capacity to radically lengthen human lifespans