

## SUMMER TASKS – GCSE TO AS TRANSITION

**Subject: Philosophy, Ethics and Religion**

**Title: Summer work**

**Task(s):**

**‘Animals and humans should not be treated equally’  
Discuss**



The assignment set is to be answered in an essay format.

Ideas to help you with this assignment:

Fill in the form on the next sheet and discuss some of these ideas in your answer  
Read the attached sheet with quotations from different writers – which writers do you agree and disagree with and why?

Start to form your ideas on a rough piece of paper

Write an introduction explaining the ideas you are going to discuss

Discuss your ideas drawing back to the question and use quotations from the writers in your answer

Draw a conclusion at the end of your piece of work

**What is your view about the treatment of animals?**

Read the five different categories below and place a number in the blank square on the right. Use 1 for the use of animals that you are most happy with 2 for your next preference

Animals being bred and killed for food	
Animals being used for medical research and experiment	
Animals being used for the testing of cosmetics, detergents and other medical goods	
Breeding and killing animals for the purpose of using their fur	
Hunting and killing of animals for sport and the breeding and training of animals for the purpose of entertainment	

## **Animal Rights and writers views**

### **Aristotle**

'Plants exist for the sake of animals, and brute beasts for the sake of man – domestic animals for his use and food, wild ones for food and other accessories of life, such as clothing and various tools. Since nature makes nothing purposeless or in vain, it is undeniably true that she has made all animals of the sake of man'

### **Aristotle *Politics***

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### **A moral community is:**

'a social group composed of interacting autonomous beings where moral concepts and precepts can evolve and be understood. It is also a social group in which the mutual recognition of autonomy and personhood exists' **M Fox (1986) *The Case for Animal Experimentation* p50**

**Are animals part of our moral community and do we have moral obligations towards them?**

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### **The Late Chief Rabbi Lord Jakobovits said:**

...could it be that the greatest moral failure of our time is the stress on our rights, on what we claim from others – human rights, women's rights, worker's rights, gay rights and so on – and not on our duties, on what we owe to others?

**Do we have rights and if so where do rights come from?**

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'Imagine five survivors are on a lifeboat. Because of limits of size, the boat can only support four. All weigh approximately the same and would take approximately the same amount of space. Four of the five are normal adult human beings. The fifth is a dog. One must be thrown overboard or else all will perish. Whom should it be?' **Regan T. (1983) *The case for animal rights*.**

**In: *In Defence of Animals* (ed.**

**Singer, P. Blackwell, Oxford p285**

**One must be thrown overboard or else all will perish. Whom should it be?' What is your response to Regan's dilemma?**

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Immanuel Kant

'So far as animals are concerned, we have no direct duties. Animals are not self-conscious, and are there merely as a means to an end. That end is man.' (***Lecture on Ethics***)

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**How long should I spend on this? 3 hours**

**How will I get feedback? Yes**

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