St Robert of Newminster Catholic School and Sixth Form College

Year 13 Pre-Course Tasks: PHILOSOPHY

The first part of next year's course will cover Philosophy of Mind. Over the summer it is important you become familiar with some of the fundamental ideas in this area. In order to prepare for the course find out about the following ideas:

1) Substance or Cartesian dualism. What does this position claim is true about reality? What arguments can be used to support it?
2) Cartesian dualism is not popular in modern philosophy. What arguments can be brought against it? What are substance dualism's most fundamental problems?
3) What is a materialistic philosophy of mind? What is mind-brain identity theory? Can mind-brain identity theory be a *scientific* theory?

There are many books introducing the Philosophy of Mind. My favourites include:

Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind by E J Lowe

Introduction to the Philosophy of Mind by K T Maslin

Philosophy of Mind and Cognition by Frank Jackson and David Braddon Mitchell

The best websites are:

The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy https://plato.stanford.edu/

The Internet Encylopedia of Philosophy http://www.iep.utm.edu/