



# St. Anne's Sixth Form

## Get Ahead Tasks

### Philosophy & Ethics A Level



#### The Matrix & Socrates

##### The Plot

Computer hacker Thomas Anderson has lived a relatively ordinary life--in what he thinks is the year 1999--until he is contacted by the enigmatic Morpheus who leads him into the real world.

In reality, it is 200 years later, and the world has been laid waste and taken over by advanced artificial intelligence machines. The computers have created a false version of 20th-century life- the "Matrix"- to keep the human slaves satisfied, while the AI machines draw power from the humans.

Anderson, pursued constantly by "Agents" (computers who take on human form and infiltrate the Matrix), is hailed as "The One" who will lead the humans to overthrow the machines and reclaim the Earth.

##### Watch the film and answer the following Questions:

1. What makes a 'person'?
2. Is it better to know the truth or is ignorance bliss?
3. Would you take the red pill or the blue pill?

##### Is the Matrix based on the life and works of Socrates?

##### Questions on Socrates

1. What was Socrates mission?
2. What question was he driven by?
3. What did Socrates want the people to wake up and join him in?

##### Questions on The Matrix

1. What is Neo's mission?
2. What question is he driven by?
3. What is the key for Neo that leads to understanding?

Subject Leader: **Mr C Tamale**

Exam Board: **OCR**



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#### Biography of Socrates

SOCRATES, the celebrated Greek philosopher and moralist, was born at Athens in the year 469 B.C. Somewhere about the middle period of his life he gave himself up to the career that made him famous. His practice was to talk or converse, "to prattle without end," as his enemies said. He was to be seen at the market-place at the hour when it was most crowded, among the booths and tables where goods were exposed for sale. His whole day was usually spent in this public manner. He talked with any one, young or old, rich or poor, who sought to address him, and in the hearing of all who stood by. As it was engaging, curious, and instructive to hear, certain persons made it their habit to attend him in public as companions and listeners. Cicero said that "Socrates brought down philosophy from the heavens to the earth."

The previous philosophies consisted of vast and vague speculations on nature as a whole, blending together Cosmogony, Astronomy, Geometry, Physics, Metaphysics, etc. Socrates had studied these systems, and they had left on his mind a feeling of emptiness and unsuitability for any human purpose. It seemed to him that men's endeavors after knowledge would be better directed to human relationships, as involving men's practical concerns. Accordingly he was the first to proclaim that "the proper study of mankind is man;" human nature, human duties and human happiness make up a field of really urgent and profitable inquiry.

In the year 400 B.C., Socrates was charged guilty of the following crimes; for not worshipping the gods whom the city worships, and for introducing new divinities of his own; next for corrupting the youth. The penalty due is death." The trial took place before a court composed of citizen-judges, like our juries, but far more numerous; the number present seems to have been 557. His defense is preserved by Plato, under the title Apology of Socrates.

His mission was to convict men of their ignorance for their ultimate benefit. He declared that his life was a public blessing to the Athenians and that if his life was preserved he would continue in the same course. He also regarded the prospect of death with utter indifference. By a majority of five or six he was adjudged guilty and sentenced to death by poison. The last day of his life he passed in conversation with his friends on the Immortality of the soul. He then drank the hemlock, and passed away with the dignity and calmness becoming his past career.

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