Optional themes and the prescribed text

International Baccalaureate · IB Diploma · Philosophy · SL · Vocabulary in context

Word	Example
optional theme	Choose one **optional theme**, such as ethics or political philosophy.
prescribed text	Study one **prescribed text**, such as a book by Mill.
consequentialism /ˌkɒnsɪˈkwenʃɪəlɪzəm/	**Consequentialism** judges actions by their results.
utilitarianism	**Utilitarianism** aims for the greatest happiness for the greatest number.
deontology /diːənˈtɒlədʒi/	**Deontology** judges an action by duties and rules.
categorical imperative	Kant's **categorical imperative** says act only in ways everyone could follow.
virtue ethics /ˈvɜːtʃuː ˈeθɪks/	**Virtue ethics** asks what a good person would do.
epistemology	**Epistemology** is the study of knowledge.
knowledge /ˈnɒlɪdʒ/	**Knowledge** is more than just belief.
justified true belief	Knowledge is often defined as **justified true belief**.
rationalism /ˈræʃənəlɪzəm/	**Rationalism** says we gain knowledge through reason.
empiricism /emˈpɪrɪsɪzəm/	**Empiricism** says we gain knowledge through the senses.

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scepticism /ˈskeptɪsɪzəm/	**Scepticism** doubts that we can know anything for sure.
harm principle	Mill's **harm principle** says we may limit freedom only to stop harm to others.
Tao Te Ching	Laozi wrote the **Tao Te Ching**.
non-action	Laozi praised **non-action**: letting things happen naturally.

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