

# Introduction to Philosophy A Level



The Philosophy A Level requires students to be able to read and understand some difficult philosophical texts.

One of the most important philosophers to the course, and to philosophy in general, is René Descartes (1596-1650). Descartes is considered by many to be the ‘father of modern philosophy’.

One of Descartes’ most well-known works is ‘Meditations on First Philosophy’, sometimes just known as ‘The Meditations’.

You can find Meditations on First Philosophy...

- In any good bookshop (real or online). Used paperback prices start at £2
- In any good library (at school or locally)
- Online for free at [www.earlymoderntexts.com](http://www.earlymoderntexts.com)

Select Descartes, then Meditations on First Philosophy

The book is split into 6 chapters, or ‘Meditations’.

**Your task is to read (and understand) The First Meditation, and answer the questions over the page (in the spaces provided).**

Of course, you can always carry on reading the other five meditations, and the objections and responses.

What is Descartes trying to do?

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What is Descartes' method?

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Explain Descartes' idea of an 'evil deceiver'

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Do you think we can ever be certain of anything? Explain your answer and give examples.

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