



# SIXTH SUPPORT

**THE MAGAZINE COMMITTEE**

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2020**

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All previous and future editions of the Sixth Support magazine can be found online at <https://www.abbeycollege.cambs.sch.uk/coronavirus>.

# PHYSICS

## Interesting Physics:

*BY TOM S.*

Space exploration is a topic within physics that has fascinated many for years. During the last month, a major report has been released intriguing the science community.

On the 14th of September scientists from the University of Cardiff published a report that has reignited the debate over the possibility of life in our solar system. The report outlines the gas 'phosphine' being detected in the clouds 50km above the surface of Venus.

The existence of phosphine within Venus' atmosphere is currently unexplained. It can be created factories here on Earth as well as within the guts of animals such as penguins. This has therefore led scientists to theorise the possibility of life in our solar system due to the current lack of known processes that we know of that create phosphine.

Even with this new piece of evidence, there is still a lot of doubt regarding if it is possible for life to be sustained within Venus' atmosphere. The clouds described earlier are composed of between 75% and 95% sulfuric acid in which would have

damaging effects on the cellular structure of the organisms that we know of on Earth. Although, these organisms may have evolved to survive in their environment.

The question of life on other planets has been debated for decades will likely remained unanswered for many years to come. Although NASA has recently begun to look at a potential flagship mission to Venus, it is not planned to go ahead until 2030 meaning the proof required may be over a decade away.

For further research into Venus, the BBC has recently released a documentary titled 'Life on Venus'. This can be found at:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m000mmjk/the-sky-at-night-life-on-venus>

# HISTORY

## The Bubonic Plague

*BY EMILY N.*

The bubonic plague is named after the swollen lymph nodes (buboes) that develop after infection of the disease.

England had two major outbreaks of the Bubonic Plague: the Black Death beginning in 1346 and the Great Plague in 1665. However, neither outbreaks were handled particularly efficiently because, at the time, there was no knowledge regarding the spread of the bacteria via fleas. Each time, the disease was believed to be caused by different things and so different method of prevention and treatment were executed.

Religion held significant value in people's lives throughout both time periods which meant that most believed that the plague was a punishment from God. They turned to the church in their times of anguish. Prayer and penance were exercised to the extreme, particularly during the 1346 outbreak. Flagellants would inflict wounds upon their own skin by whipping it with various tools as a way of repenting their sins so that God wouldn't allow for them to contract the disease.

Additionally, anti-Semitism (a hatred of Jews) in the 14<sup>th</sup> century led to the persecution of the Jews for supposedly being the cause of the disease. They were burnt at the stake and attacked throughout Europe because it was believed that the outbreak wasn't affecting the Jewish community who often secluded themselves from the rest of the population, inadvertently distancing themselves from the disease.

Each time the plague descended upon the nation, the government attempted to enforce a quarantine. This was moderately successful in preventing the spread of the plague. But the problem in London was that whilst those with wealth and means were able to evacuate to the city, the working class were limited to small, cramped, apartments where disease spread rapidly.

Nowadays, outbreaks of the bubonic plague are rare but can be treated with ease because of antibiotics. The first antibiotic, Penicillin, was invented in 1928 by Alexander Flemming and this was expanded upon throughout the remainder of the 20<sup>th</sup> century.

# SOCIOLOGY

# What is Sociology?

BY EMMA H.

Sociology is the study of society and human behaviour.

This includes things such as looking at the roles and purpose of education, why crime occurs or inequalities among society.

Sociologists conduct different types of research to demonstrate their theories about certain aspects of society.

Within sociology, there are also many different sociological perspectives.

Perspectives are the way in which groups of people view society.

For example, one sociological perspective is Marxists.

Marxists believe that capitalism is to blame for many of society's problems. Capitalism is when a few very rich people or the upper class (the bourgeoisie) own the means of production. This includes things such as factories, the money coming in due to trade and also the private property (housing). The ruling class also typically exploit their workers by not paying them enough money and making them work long hours.



The lower class (proletariat) work for the ruling class and are not paid enough. However, Marxists believe that the lower class are made to believe that this is acceptable and do not question it. Marxists argue that things such as the education system help to make this seem normal and the lower class do not question this.

Karl Marx believed that the working class would have an uprising and overthrow the ruling class making an equal society.

Many other sociologists believe in different theories and make up new perspectives. This includes Functionalism, many different types of Feminism and New Right perspectives.

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

## How to write a book review in five steps!

BY AMBER M.

Book reviews can be more important than you think and they don't just have to be written by professional critics, often reviews written by regular readers such as you can be a lot more helpful. By writing just a simple review you are giving the book an opportunity to be found by more people and are probably saving someone else's time. They don't have to be long and are actually really easy to write using just a few simple steps:

1) **Summarise the book** – Introduce the premise as well as the main characters but make sure not to go into too much detail. Keep it short and sweet, ensuring you don't include any spoilers!

2) **Evaluate** – Dedicate a paragraph to some of the key aspects of the book such as setting, characters, themes and plot. How well do you think the author has tackled these things? What's your opinion on their style of writing? This is the time to answer any questions you think people may be wanting to know.

3) **Use very brief quotes**- Include quotes that stood out to you for whatever reason. Try not to make them too long though.

4) **Recommend** – This is where you should start to conclude. Would you recommend this book to other people? Perhaps rate it out of 5 stars or recommend other book that are of a similar style.

5) **Proofread** – Check over it to make sure there are no mistakes before finishing.

If you want to share your reviews online, there are some great websites for students such as: Library Thing, Goodreads, Shelfari and Scholastic.





I believe everyone has struggled getting art supplies whilst we were in lockdown but fear not! Abbey College has created an art pack specially for you to get what you need to continue doing what you do best now that we're back at school. Of course, they are providing materials but this can be difficult with year group bubbles so having your own might make things that little bit easier.

However, if you want to follow some kind of creative career it could be an idea to start to shop for your own supplies – having this knowledge was certainly something that helped me during lockdown!

If you're not sure where to get started, here's some top tips :

- **Shop around** – if you're buying supplies for the first time, always shop around so you get a feel for the average price of the item, to not only make sure you're not getting over charged but also to make sure you pay enough for good quality
- **Reviews** – check online reviews of the item to see what other people think and avoid buying if there's many bad reviews with a common problem

- **Paper** – paper is really important in art so always check the size and purpose of the stuff you buy – is it for sketching? Watercolour? Oil paints?
- **Brushes** – always check the intended purpose of the brush as harder/thicker brushes should be used for oil paint but softer brushes would work better for watercolour
- **Backgrounds** – instead of creating a background many artists use different materials so get creative when looking for new materials ( you don't have to buy them as there's probably quite a few you can find in your own home )

I'm sure Mrs Wibberly would be happy to help guide you on buying an art pack but most who take art should have an email discussing the content details and price. As always, do send your art into us because we would love to see some!

# PHILOSOPHY

## Plato, the Father of Rationalist Thought

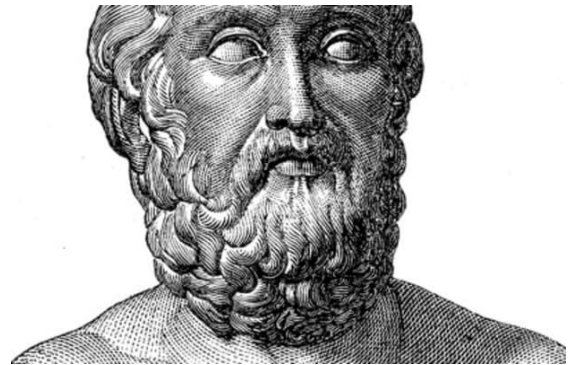
BY JOSEPH B.

Plato is perhaps one of the best-known philosophers to have ever existed. He was an ancient Greek philosopher (427 – 347 BC), a group of philosophers who are essentially known to have had every argument anyone else has ever had, except they did it a few hundred years earlier. The ancient Greeks even had a philosopher called Epicurus even invented the idea of atoms, tiny balls that make up everything. Yes. Atoms. Known about since ancient Greece... Who would have thought?

Plato did. Plato thought a lot, it was kind of his job. This led to Plato choosing to find the “truth” behind things. There are the two main ideas surrounding how to find the “truth”, the Empirical and Rational schools of thought, with Plato being both a part of, and creator of, the latter school, Rationalism. Rationalism is a school of thought that argues everything “true” can only be understood if it can be explained through logic alone, as our senses (touch, smell, sight) can be tricked, and therefore not trusted.

Through his rationalist theory, Plato was able to create two major

theories surrounding philosophy and the purpose of life, with these two ideas being that of Plato’s cave (less spooky than it sounds, sadly) and the realm of the Forms. As the de facto father of Rationalism, Plato has had a profound effect of Philosophy throughout human history, and it could be argued that he is directly responsible for Philosophy as it is known today.



**Fun fact:** Ancient Greek philosophers used to get drunk while debating, they would fill a special cup up with water and wine, starting with little wine and mostly water, then as the session went on they would slowly transition to just pure wine.



## ARITHMETIC CHALLENGE: Can you complete the following in 60 seconds each?

3	+10	x7	-6	-1	/7	+5	-3	/7	?
51	/3	-2	x7	-11	x2	1/2 of this	-7	Double it	?
85	x2	+6	1/8 of this	/2	-5	x9	-14	3/5 of this	?

## COUNTDOWN NUMBERS:

Can you use the 6 numbers below to make: 430?

25

100

2

4

8

3

## SUDOKU

The aim is to fill in the grid below so that each row, column and 3x3 section contains the numbers 1 to 9.

9				8		3		
			2	5		7		
	2		3					4
	9	4						
			7	3		5	6	
7		5		6		4		
		7	8		3	9		
		1						3
3								2

## COUNTDOWN:

Can you use the following nine letters to create one nine-letter word? You can only use each letter once.

E	R	N	O	J	T	I	C	E
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

## CROSS MATHS:

The puzzle must contain all the numbers 1 to 16, so that all of the equations are true. Some of the digits are already filled in: complete the puzzle.

9	x		-		+		141
x		x		/		-	
	+	6	x	5	-	10	27
-		-		+		-	
	+		-		x		3
x		+		+		+	
11	+		x		+	8	25
19		85		20		9	

# POLITICS

## Anarchism

BY JESSICA M.

Anarchism is a political ideology deriving from the Greek word *anarchos* meaning without authority. Though anarchy means a state of disorder, anarchists don't believe that the state when left without authority will be chaotic. They believe that all form of authority from the state-government, police and the court system etc limit the freedom of the individual therefore it should be irradiated. We are innately rational and cooperative but society and our environment corrupt us making us selfish. Anarchists think the only way for people to have freedom to explore their individuality is in a stateless and classless society. In addition, people don't need laws and a government to tell them what to do as those institutions are corrupt and controlling.

This sounds very idealistic and completely impossible to put into practice for many people. Never in history has there been an anarchist state so there is nothing in history that proves it would never work. However, Anthropologist David Graeber argues that we are more anarchist than we think. He believes that when we line up to get on the

bus rather than pushing through a crowd when police aren't watching it proves the anarchist principle of self-organisation. It shows that the fear of prosecution isn't what causes people to act rationally.

Graeber also argues that as children we are taught anarchist principles such as cleaning up after ourselves, two wrongs don't make a right and sharing. He believes that these are moral principles and as we get older we realise the adult world doesn't work this way- competition, war, injustice. However, anarchists believe that the world doesn't have to be this way and that our human decency would allow us to all live harmoniously from our own will not due to the fear of being prosecuted by the state.