

🧠 Year 9 RS Revision Sheet

Philosophers & “Is Death the End?”

🏛️ PART 1: Philosophers – Understanding the World

🧐 Socrates

Key Ideas:

- Focused on **questioning everything**
- Believed in using **reason and logic** to find truth
- “The unexamined life is not worth living”

✅ **Simple:** Ask questions to understand the world

★ **Developed:** Truth is discovered through debate and thinking

👤 Plato (Student of Socrates)

Key Ideas:

- Believed reality has **two levels**:
 - The **physical world** (what we see – imperfect)
 - The **World of Forms** (perfect, real truth)

🕯️ Allegory of the Cave:

- People are like prisoners seeing shadows
- The real world is outside the cave
 - 👉 What we see is not always true

✅ **Simple:** The world we see is not the real truth

★ **Developed:** True knowledge comes from understanding deeper reality

🏛️ Aristotle (Student of Plato)

Key Ideas:

- Disagreed with Plato
- Believed knowledge comes from:
 - **Observation**
 - **Experience**
- Focused on the **real world (science)**

✅ **Simple:** We learn by observing the world

★ **Developed:** Truth comes from evidence, not hidden realities

🔍 Comparison

Philosopher	View of the World
Socrates	Question everything
Plato	Reality is beyond what we see
Aristotle	Reality is what we observe

👤 PART 2: Is Death the End?

🔑 Key Words

- **Soul:** Non-physical part of a person
- **Afterlife:** Life after death
- **Materialism:** No soul, only the body
- **Dualism:** Body and soul are separate

✅ YES – Death IS the End

- **Materialist view**
- When the brain stops → we stop
- No scientific proof of an afterlife

✅ Example explanation:

Death is the end because the body and brain stop working, so consciousness ends.

❌ NO – Death is NOT the End

- Many religious believers accept an **afterlife**
- The **soul continues** after death
- Beliefs in heaven or spiritual existence

✅ Example explanation:

Death is not the end because the soul lives on after the body dies.

⚖️ Balanced View

- Science → supports “death is the end”
- Religion → supports “life continues”
 - 👉 Different people interpret evidence differently

Quick Comparison (for exams):

- Plato = reality beyond what we see (Forms)
- Aristotle = knowledge from observation
- Socrates = questioning leads to truth

How to answer “Death is the end” (12 marks):

- Agree: science / materialism
- Disagree: religion / soul / afterlife
- Religious idea: e.g. belief in heaven
- Conclusion: your opinion + reason