

BBC Documentary

Human All Too Human

Watch the documentary *Human All Too Human*:

Wardle, L., Logan, C., Warnock, M., Rée, J., Lévy, B.-H., & Gwynne, H. (1999). *Human, all too human. Sartre : the road to freedom*. Monarda Arts. BBC documentary. See online resource list for the module for access, or search for it online.

As you watch it / as go through the documentary, answer the following questions:

1. What assumptions was Sartre challenging in his work?
2. What ideas formed the basis of Sartre's existentialism?
3. What are some of the main themes in Sartre's work?
4. In what sense is one's life 'a work of art'?
5. Why might the realisation that your life is not founded on any past objective facts be so horrifying?
6. In what way did the period in which Sartre's work emerged provide 'fertile ground' for his ideas?
7. Sartre's *Being and Nothingness* was heavily influenced by which philosopher?
8. List some of the common charges made against existentialism.

9. Why, according to the work of Sartre, do relationships between human beings always involve conflict?
10. How might personal freedom be threatened by other people?
11. What, according to Mary Warnock, does Sartre totally overlook in his philosophy? Do you agree with Warnock?
12. Could radical freedom, as Sartre conceived it, be called a 'fantasy'?
13. Is it correct to call existentialism an 'attitude'?
14. At the heart of Sartre's philosophy is the following question: 'If we are truly free, how are we to live our life?' Do you think Sartre found a convincing answer to this question? If not, do you think his philosophy goes somewhere towards answering this question?
15. How should we best understand freedom?