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In this assignment, we are looking at how philosophies of the ancient world still influence our own societies and values today. We will explore the questions posed during the Axial Age, in regards to the nature of the cosmos, social order, and individual ethics, and examine how we might answer these questions in today's world. Our responses can be based on a variety of sources such as religious faith, political ideals, founding documents, culture and traditions, or research and reference books. Through this exploration,

Recent research on children's memory and learning has yielded interesting results. JH Danovitch and JD Lane's 2020 study, published in the *Journal of Experimental Child Psychology*, suggests that children's learning and memory benefit from the use of reference books. In the study, Danovitch and Lane examine the effect of reference books on children's memory and learning. The researchers found that when children were given reference books to use, they had better memory and recall of the material than when using only their own knowledge. Furthermore, the study found that children who used reference books had better recall of the material even after a week, suggesting that reference books can help children retain knowledge in the long-term. This is an important finding, as it indicates that reference books can be beneficial for children's learning and memory. Thus, the use of reference books should be encouraged in educational contexts to help children improve their memory and learning outcomes.

The nature of the cosmos is an age-old mystery that has been studied extensively throughout the years. According to V Smolčić et al. (2011), the universe is composed of a wide variety of

elements and structures, including galaxies, stars, dust, gas, and dark matter. These elements interact with one another in complex ways and their behavior may differ from one region of the universe to another. The authors further note that the universe is constantly expanding, suggesting that the cosmos is constantly in flux. Additionally, the authors point out that the universe is also dynamic, with structures such as galaxies and stars forming and evolving in response to the forces of gravity, radiation, and other effects. This indicates that the nature of the cosmos is both complex and ever-changing. It is clear, then, that the nature of the cosmos is a complex and ever-evolving mystery that remains largely unsolved.

The ethical responsibilities of individuals are complex and varied. In Edwards and Goussios' study, *Ethics and Social Welfare* (2021), they identify three main responsibilities of individuals: to be conscious of their own ethical behaviour and to take responsibility for their actions; to consider the ethical implications of their decisions; and to contribute to the development of a more just society. These responsibilities are interconnected, as individuals must be aware of the consequences of their actions and take responsibility for them in order to contribute to a more just society. On a personal level, this means that individuals should strive to act with integrity and respect for others, being mindful of the impact of their decisions on both themselves and others. Furthermore, individuals must recognize their own privilege and use it to support and advocate for those who lack it. Finally, individuals must proactively engage in the work of social change, participating in activities that challenge existing power structures. By doing so, individuals can contribute to the development of a more equitable and just society. In sum, the ethical responsibilities of individuals are wide-ranging and complex, but are essential for the progress of a just and equitable society.

In conclusion, it is evident that the ideas of the philosophers of the Axial Age plant the seeds of many of the questions, issues and debates we still face today. As we navigate the complexity of our personal and global choices, it is essential to consider the motivations and influences of our decisions. Whether rooted in our spiritual beliefs, personal convictions or cultural conventions, our individual and global identities are shaped by our response to these fundamental inquiries. By critically examining our personal and social values with respect to these principles can will help to ensure that we make ethical and meaningful choices today, that will have a practical and positive impact in the world.

#### Work Cited

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