**Below is a list of the different responses students in a class came up with to the question ‘What is a person for?’ These responses are recorded below unedited.**

1. A purpose is to for a human to do what they want to achieve in life
2. Is to have fun
3. A person is used for helping the earth grow and make sure its sustainable for us and all the animals and um that’s what I think.
4. **Making a generation and working**
5. I think humans were created to live
6. A person is to have a good life and make themselves feel good by helping other people so they can enjoy their life and another purpose is so other humans can come into the world so they can help people and make people and the person they help to feel good
7. A person is meant to be born and once they have grown their purpose is to make the world a better place or change something for the better so the future generation can do well
8. Humans are for joy.
9. To explore the universe
10. Humans were made to rise our population
11. They are made to do what they themselves wish to accomplish
12. What I think a person is for is to look after the earth and feed animals and keep all living creatures on the earth alive. A person is for running the earth in a sensible matter without creating harm. A person is for making everything on the earth including other people happy.
13. A person is for living so they can live a good life and enjoy what they love doing most. Once you unfortunately die and then the next generations go on and so forth.
14. Humans are a creature of nature and are just as special as animals such as dogs and cats. Humans can be described as a figure that is able to move around at different speeds and are able to do almost anything if they put in the effort for the task. Humans are to keep the world alive and are a very nice animal that can protect different things and humans also are made to create a whole bunch of different things such as houses, roads and a great lifestyle as other animals are not able to do these things.
15. Humans were made to have fun !?
16. To figure out the meaning of life.
17. A person is here to be like every animal eat, sleep and reproduce.
18. To do whatever they feel like.
19. What you are asking, may seem to many people, to need extremely complicated and even religious answer. The answer is a trophy. We are an award. It may sound weird at first, but think about it, we are the outcome of trillions of years of evolution. We are the outcome of a fight to survive, a race to evolve. It isn't about how strong, fast or warm you are, in the end, it is only the brains. It is us.

Answer the questions below on a separate bit of paper.

1. Choose one of the statements above.
2. Write down some evidence for the idea expressed in the statement, or reasons why someone might believe this idea.
3. Write out what you think the consequences of this idea is for our lives. For example:
   1. What would a person’s life look like when we are 40 years old if they followed it?
   2. What what it would mean for them if everything went well?
   3. What would it mean for them if everything went badly?

**What I learnt from Aristotle**

Three hundred years before Christ, the Greek philosopher Aristotle made an observation about you and me that I think has stood the test of time. In his book *On Rhetoric* he laid out a theory about how people form beliefs, that is, how they came to be persuaded by political, religious, ethical and cultural argument…

Aristotle said that people form their beliefs on the basis of a combination of three factors: what he called *logos, pathos* and *ethos*. *Logos* is the intellectual dimension, the part in us (or in the argument we are listening to) that corresponds to logic and common sense. As rational beings we like to know that our beliefs are generally factual, reasonable and grounded in something other than wishful thinking. I’m sure most of us would agree so far with the great Athenian philosopher.

But it is a foolish person, Aristotle argued, who thinks we form our beliefs only on the basis of intellect. In addition to *logos* there is *pathos*, the personal or emotional dimension of belief that is just as real as the rational part... A message of this kind meets our passions and longings….This is another way of saying people rarely change their minds on big issues based only on information.

Finally, there is *ethos*, the social dimension of persuasion. What we believe is hugely influenced by our upbringing, our education and the circle of friends we find ourselves in. It is part of human nature to accept more readily the views of people we know, admire, trust and love…

The point of all this is to ask readers, whether Christian or not, to explore the life of Jesus fully aware that we form our views on the big questions (and the small ones) through a range of factors. We are complex people. We are intellectual, emotional, social beings, and each of these components plays some part in how we respond.

John Dickson’s Introduction to his book: Life of Jesus (Zondervan 2010)

Answer the questions below on a separate bit of paper.

1. Describe an argument that has changed you mind on an issue.
2. What three things does Aristotle say influences how people form beliefs?
3. Describe *logos* in your own words
4. Describe *pathos* in your own words
5. Describe *ethos* in your own words
6. How does John Dickson suggest Aristotle’s theory can help us understand how humans respond to religion?
7. Do you think *logos, pathos* and *ethos* are important? Why or why not?
8. What do you think about climate change?
9. Where do your views on climate change come from?
10. Can you see where *logos, pathos* and *ethos* have influenced your views on climate change?