

These are the **additional paper topics** for The Brothers Karamazov:

8) Alyosha says to Ivan: “You have accused yourself and have confessed to yourself that you are the murderer and no one else. But you didn’t do it. You are mistaken. You are not the murderer. Do you hear? It was not you! God has sent me to tell you so” (696). To what extent is Ivan responsible for old Karamazov’s murder? Why does he think he is? Why does Alyosha insist that he isn’t?

9) Compare and contrast Zossima with the Christ of *The Grand Inquisitor* as “exemplary Christians.” (You may want to think of their views on love, ethics, community etc.)

10) What conceptions of freedom do the Grand Inquisitor and Christ (in the story) have? What are their similarities and differences? How do they impact the overall position or worldview they present? [Instead of freedom, you may want to write on conceptions of love and happiness and their interrelation]

11) In *The Grand Inquisitor*, Ivan focuses on the suffering of children. In Book X, Alyosha meets a suffering Ilyusha, influences a group of young boys, and the novel ends with the funeral of Ilyusha. How do Ivan and Alyosha respond differently to the suffering of children, and what does this show about the difference between the brothers and how Dostoyevsky thinks one should respond to suffering?

12) What do the various “devils” in the novel—Rakitin, Smerdyakov, the Devil of Ivan’s nightmare—have in common? How do they differ?

NOTE: You are encouraged to write on a topic of your own, but before you begin you must have the approval of your GSI. Don’t wait until the last minute to propose a topic.

LENGTH: Approximately 6 pages. Please use Times New Roman 12 pt. font, 1-inch margins. Double space and number your pages.

**DUE: Mon. April 14 by 5:00 PM in the Howison Philosophy Library. One increment of a grade (for example A to A minus) will be taken off for each day a paper is late.**

Suggestions:

- 1) *Avoid merely repeating what is said in lectures and sections.*
- 2) Avoid summary comparison. Show differences as well as similarities in any comparisons you make.
- 3) Raise a specific question. Make your paper clearly an answer to this specific question.
- 4) Support your arguments with specific details from the relevant text and/or phenomenon.