



Religious Studies: Philosophy & Ethics A Level

Exam Board: OCR

Entry requirements: Grade 6 in GCSE English Language/Literature

Intent

Structure

This course offers the opportunity for inquisitive individuals to discuss some of the ultimate questions facing humanity today, delving into key philosophical arguments from the views of Plato and Aristotle. It also questions God's existence, the problem of evil in the world and explores belief in relation to key atheists such as Richard Dawkins, Bertrand Russell and Freud.

Philosophy students get opportunities to:

- Take part in discussions and debates
- Listen to other people's views
- Learn about different and often unusual ideas from both atheists and religious thinkers
- Look for answers when there are no set right or wrongs

Philosophy is an independent reading and essay based subject. Students will take active part in discussing ideas with their peers and as a whole class on a regular basis. We utilise the flipped learning technique, so students prepare for lessons at home and we establish what students know, then analyse and evaluate ideas. Complementary subjects are Psychology, Sociology, History, English and Geography. We will study many different religious and non-religious approaches to ethics and aspects of our relationship with the world and evaluate these to come to your own conclusions about these areas. It is completely exam based and there are only long, essay answers so written communication is very important.

Implementation

Content & Sequencing

Philosophy

You'll study philosophical language and thought, and issues and questions raised by belief:

- Ancient philosophical influences the nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language.

Ethics

You'll explore key concepts and the works of influential thinkers, ethical theories and their application:

- Normative ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

Developments in thought

You'll explore:

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
- Significant social and historical developments in theology

and religious thought

- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society

Assessment Methods

At A-level there are three exams, each account for one third of your A-level grade. The three exams last 2 hours and are worth 1 marks each. The exams consist of a mixture of short answer and extended writing questions.

Impact

Onward Progression

Philosophy is a great choice of subject for people who want a career in social work, nursing or medicine. But the subject is also useful in a number of other careers, like the in Police, journalism, law or teaching.

According to bestcourse4me.com, the top six degree courses taken by students who have an A-level in philosophy are: Philosophy; Sociology; English Studies; Business Studies; Law; Teaching

Many students go onto University to study Philosophy, Religious Studies or Theology. But often students now combine Philosophy with many different subjects from Maths to Art to English. Also students studying Law, Criminology, Psychology and History at University have all found their philosophical studies useful.

Further information contact

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