

Subject: Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics



Nobel
Sixth Form

Level: A Level Exam Board: OCR

The Philosophy & Ethics course will examine philosophical questions such as 'Is there a God?' 'Is there an afterlife?' 'Do I have a soul?' alongside contemporary moral issues such as abortion, sexuality and the nature and role of the conscience. It is a highly regarded academic qualification and will develop students' analytical, conceptual and reflective skills.

This course gives students a clear progression from GCSE RE and enables them to explore the rigours of academic philosophy alongside the ethical debate so many enjoy.

Why should I take philosophy and ethics?

The course is rigorous and engaging and will provide you with opportunities to debate and consider the world in new ways. It is a highly regarded academic qualification that will complement both arts and science subjects and will provide you with excellent training in essay writing and critical thinking.

What will I learn on this course?

This course will enable you to:

- develop your skills in independent, reflective and critical thought;
- develop an interest in philosophical problems and ultimate questions;
- develop strong independent thinking;
- learn to reason at a high level;
- make informed judgements and opinions, and debate them.

Who would be a successful student of Philosophy and Ethics?

This course will appeal to students who:

- have a genuine interest in the opinions and thoughts of others;
- enjoy reading challenging texts;
- enjoy questioning their own preconceptions;
- enjoy participating in discussion, expressing and justifying their own opinions;
- are prepared to look at the world in a very different way;
- intend to pursue academic subjects in Higher Education.

Career Opportunities

You will find this course useful if you wish to follow a career in the following areas:

- Industry, business and commerce, where critical thinking and new ideas are desirable qualities
- Law, policing or the army
- Advertising, marketing and the media;
- Academic research and education
- Medicine or nursing

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Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Philosophy of Religion Learners will study <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	(01) 120 Marks 2 hour written paper	33.3% of total A Level
Religion and Ethics Learners will study <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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	(02) 120 Marks 2 hour written paper	33.3% of total A Level
Developments in religious thought Learners will study <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 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 with tradition• Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought• Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society In the context of Christianity	(03-07) 120 Marks 2 hour written paper	33.3% of total A Level