

Subject: Religious Studies: Philosophy and Ethics

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 • 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 • 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 • 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