

SUBJECT: Philosophy and Ethics **YEAR:** 12 & 13

HEAD OF DOMAIN: Mr M McCarthy

COURSE LEADER: Miss L Harris

GROUPING POLICY: Mixed Options Group

EXAM BOARD: OCR

SPECIFICATION LINK:

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/>

COURSE INTENT:

Philosophy & Ethics at A-level gives students the opportunity to develop their own personal opinions in greater depth, they do this through evaluating their views, and also those of Philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle, Immanuel Kant and Jeremy Bentham. They apply these ideas to topics such as 'does God exist?', Euthanasia and abortion. Additionally, they will continue to expand their knowledge and understanding of world religions, studying the beliefs and practices of Buddhism, as well the impact Buddhism has had in the west today, and upon the lives of women. This will impact the students in that they will be able to further develop their critical analysis and reasoning skills to determine the impact of these issues in their own right, a skill that will benefit them, no matter what they choose to do after sixth form.

COURSE IMPLEMENTATION

The above will be implemented through the three different sections of the course, as detailed below:

Philosophy of Religion

- 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.

Religious Ethics

- 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 Religious Thought (Buddhism)

- 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;

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- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought;
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

What will homework look like?

Various tasks, including preparation for class activities, planning and writing exam style responses, additional reading and research, consolidation of classwork and responding to feedback in order to improve work.

Humanities and Careers Education

All Humanities subjects will endeavour to highlight careers linked to subject content, exemplar material and teacher's own personal experiences. This could take the form of discussion, use of wall displays, bespoke slides in presentations or through the Humanities Noticeboard. Students will be made aware of a range of professions, their entry requirements, their skill sets, their possible remuneration and any relevant opportunities.

What enrichment opportunities are available?

- Guest speakers;
- Conference (Philosophy / Ethics)

ASSESSMENT

- Homework and exam style responses will be marked regularly;
- Folder checks carried out.

The A Level is assessed through 100% external examination.

There are three exams at the end of Year 13 which are all 2 hours long, each worth 33.3% of the final qualifications.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

How can I support my child in this subject?

- Encourage reading around topics taught;
- Discussion of topical, ethical and moral issues;
- Ensure attendance in lessons at school.

How can I support my child with exams?

- Revision timetable;
- Encourage a regular revision using a range of techniques.