

A Level Philosophy & Ethics

Throughout human history, the world's greatest minds have tried to answer life's big questions, and this course is all about following in their footsteps. The study of philosophy allows students to learn ancient ideas about life up to modern day interpretations of big questions regarding our lives. Ethics, on the other hand, will demand debating skills and strong written skills in order to justify opinions about the way in which humans behave and make moral decisions. The final part of the A level course is the development of religious thought, which looks deeply into the history of a religion (Christianity), how it has been challenged, how it has changed and how it is trying to adapt to modern society. This course is fully assessed by exam at the end of Year 13.

Programme of Study

Year 12		Year 13	
Unit	Assessment Method	Unit	Assessment Method
Philosophy & Religion: Ancient philosophy, nature of the soul, mind and body, arguments for existence and non-existence of God	External	Philosophy of Religion: Problem of evil, nature of God religious language	External
Religion & Ethics: Normative ethical theories and the application of these to a controversial issue (euthanasia), ethical language	External	Religion and Ethics The idea of the conscience, sexual ethics	External
Development in Religious Thought: Variation of religious beliefs and values through history, sources of wisdom and authority	External	Development in Religious Thought: Social and psychological development of religion, challenges from multiculturalism	External

Pathways

Philosophy and ethics remains a highly respected academic subject by universities and employers. Gaining an A level in philosophy and ethics will equip students with excellent academic skills for further study and employment including analytical skills, critical thinking, debate skills and communication skills. Students may go on to complete a university course in philosophy whilst others may opt to study subjects such as law, journalism or any of the social sciences at degree level, leaving doors open to pursue a wide variety of careers.