



Post 16 Prospectus: PHILOSOPHY

Advanced Subsidiary (AS) & Advanced Level (A2)

Examining Board: AQA Syllabus: Philosophy

AIM

- develop a range of transferable skills which can be applied far beyond the study of Philosophy
- help students gain a thorough grounding in key philosophical concepts, themes, texts and techniques
- enable students to develop the ability to reason, form their own judgements, express themselves coherently and contribute to the process of debate
- show students how to consider philosophical problems through the study of a key text.

COURSE CONTENT

AS Level (Stand-alone AS Exam)		Advanced Level (Decoupled Exam)	
1	Epistemology Direct Realism (including the argument from illusion) Indirect Realism (including Russell's 'best hypothesis' Berkeley's Idealism The definition of knowledge: What is propositional knowledge? The origins of concepts and the nature of knowledge. Knowledge empiricism (a priori and a posteriori)	1	Metaphysics of God Arguments relating to the existence of God Ontological arguments Teleological/design arguments Cosmological Arguments Problem of Evil Religious Language
2	Moral Philosophy Utilitarianism (Bentham, Mill, Singer) Kant's Deontological Ethics Aristotelian Virtue Ethics As applied to: stealing, simulated killing (within computer games, plays, films etc.), eating animals, telling lies. Meta Ethics – (moral realism and anti-realism)	2	Philosophy of Mind The mind-body problem Dualism Qualia Materialism Logical/analytical behaviourism Mind-brain type identity Functionalism Eliminative Materialism
AS ASSESSMENT		A2 ASSESSMENT	
Section A: Epistemology Section B: Moral Philosophy 100% of AS, 50% of A-level 3 hour written examination Total marks: 80 Section A : Five questions on epistemology •Section B : Five questions on moral philosophy		Section A: Metaphysics of God Section B: Philosophy of Mind 50% of A-level 3 hour written examination Total marks: 100 Section A: Five questions on the metaphysics of God Section B: Five questions on the metaphysics of mind	



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SUBJECT ENRICHMENT

Ethics Conference, Guest Speakers

SUBJECT SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

General entry requirement for Post-16: 5 grade 4/C at GCSE, preferably including English and Maths. Specific entry requirements: Grade 4 in religious studies or 4 in English if religious studies not taken at GCSE.

A STUDENT PERSPECTIVE

Philosophy and Ethics are my favourite lessons. I really get a chance to work through my ideas and express my viewpoint. Emily

Philosophy is going to be the most eternally relevant subject, because it focuses on questions that humans have asked themselves for as long as there has been language, and those questions are never going to go away. Niamh

I have loved being taught religious studies, Philosophy and Ethics by you. You've inspired me to go on and carry on 'philosophising' at university doing PPE and you've helped me achieve the grades to do it! Will

WHERE NEXT?

Social Sciences, Law, Theology, Philosophy, Psychology, Nursing, Midwifery, Teaching and the Police Force

DESTINATIONS:

Students studying PPE at London, Theology at Nottingham, taking a GAP year to do charity work in Africa to name but a few.

HOW DO WE SUPPORT OUR STUDENTS?

Mentoring meetings, tutorials, subject buddying, academic mentoring, lunchtime drop ins, revision, extension and enrichment work on Showbie.