

PHILOSOPHY

QUALIFICATION: A LEVEL

EXAM BOARD: AQA



SUBJECT OVERVIEW

A level Philosophy provides you with a broad introduction to the study of Philosophy. The Philosophy specification asks these fundamental questions:

- What can I know?
- How should I live?
- Does God exist?
- What is the mind?

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YEAR ONE COURSE CONTENT

In the first year, two units are studied. These are as follows:

Ethics

Includes discussion of the nature and origins of morality, where a variety of normative ethical theories are studied (e.g. Utilitarianism, Kantian Ethics) along with meta-ethics and questions concerning the meaning and status of ethical language.

Epistemology

Includes discussion of the origin of concepts and the nature of knowledge: where do ideas/concepts and knowledge come from? What is knowledge? How is it different from belief?

YEAR TWO COURSE CONTENT

In the second year, two units are studied. These are as follows:

Metaphysics of God

Includes discussion of the concept of God; arguments relating to the existence of God; the problem of evil and the nature and status of religious language.

Metaphysics of Mind

Includes discussion of the mind-body problem: What is the relationship between the mental and the physical? Can a machine think/have a mind? A range

of dualist, materialist and functionalist perspectives are explored.

WHAT DOES THIS COURSE PREPARE ME FOR?

The course is designed to allow you to do the following:

- Develop a range of transferable skills which can be applied far beyond the study of Philosophy
- Gain a thorough grounding in key philosophical concepts, themes, texts and techniques
- Develop the ability to reason, form your own judgements, express yourself coherently and contribute to the process of debate

COURSE SUPPORT AND ENRICHMENT

You will be offered revision workshops as a core part of this course. In addition, there will be opportunities for you to hear from a range of guest speakers.

YEAR TWO ASSESSMENT

Assessment is comprised of two written examinations to be taken at the end of the second year: both are 3 hours in length. The first one covers first year content (epistemology and ethics) and the second covers the second year content (metaphysics of God and metaphysics of mind).

