



Philosophy (Linear)

AQA: Course Code 7172

Contacts: Mr D Shoker

Course Outline:

This course is aimed at those who are prepared for an open-minded exploration of the big questions, in particular the medical, legal and moral issues that affect the lives of us all today, as well as deeper philosophical questions about the nature of the universe and of humanity, and the existence or non-existence of God.

Year 1: Epistemology and Moral Philosophy

In **Epistemology**, we examine where ideas and knowledge come from. Does knowledge come from reason (like Maths) or our senses (like Science)? Can we know anything at all? Do we perceive the world as it really is and how does perception work?

In **Moral Philosophy**, we study theories of morality/ethics – exploring questions about what makes actions right or wrong. In addition to this, we look at the meaning of ethical language – exploring what it actually means to say something is “good”. We then apply these theories to things like simulated killing (in computer games and films), lying, stealing and eating animals.

Year 2: Metaphysics of God and Metaphysics of Mind

In **Metaphysics of Mind** we examine what consciousness might be. Consciousness is still one of the biggest mysteries of Philosophy and Science. What is the Mind? Is it a non-physical ‘soul’? What is the relationship between mind and brain? Can we create computers that think (Artificial Intelligence)?

In **Metaphysics of God**, we examine questions about God in a philosophical way. Is there any good reason to believe a God exists? Does morality come from a God’s decisions, or are things good and bad independently of God? What evidence is there to suggest there is a God and how certain is it? We also study the problem of evil and ask ourselves if religious language has any meaning.

Assessment Framework:

Assessment will be 100% exam and is likely to comprise 3 exam papers at the end of Yr13.

Questions will cover all four topics:

- Epistemology (Study of knowledge)
- Moral Philosophy (Ethics)
- Philosophy of Mind
- Metaphysics of God

Course Entry Requirements:

A minimum of a grade 6 at GCSE in English and either History, Religious Studies, Sociology or another similar qualification.

Why Study A-level Philosophy?

An A-level in Philosophy is a highly regarded qualification that gives you important skills highly prized in many roles. The ability to think critically, to reason better, to evaluate arguments and to communicate complex ideas in a clear and concise manner is valued by both universities and employers.

It perfectly complements a range of University degrees, and you will often find Philosophy modules in popular courses.

Studying this subject is therefore particularly useful for future study or a career in areas such as Law, Politics, Journalism, Medicine, Business and other Humanities subjects.

Be The Best You Can Be