

# A Level

## Philosophy and Ethics

Philosophy and ethics is a broad essay based subject which gives you a range of knowledge and understanding of many philosophical concepts, key thinkers, themes, texts and ways of thinking. It also draws light on key ethical issues which remain incredibly important to this day, such as cloning, abortion and animal testing. During your studies you will cover many theories and study the works of many key philosophers and thinkers, from Plato to Aristotle, to Kant and Freud. The content covered is very varied and interesting and will offer a new perspective and encourage you to consider things from an analytic and challenging perspective. It will give you a new view on the key issues which face modern society today. The subject will also leave you with many transferrable skills which will be very useful not only for your future studies but in your everyday life and in how you approach situations and problems with which you are faced. Such as analysing and evaluating the arguments of others, whilst constructing and defending your own arguments.

The subject is widely recognised by universities and can work well with both humanities and written subjects such as history and English, as well as alongside sciences and mathematical subjects.

### Subject specific entry requirements

In addition to the standard entry requirements, the following subject entry criteria should be met:

- 5 in GCSE Philosophy and Ethics and/or GCSE English

### Exam Board

**AQA Philosophy** (Specification 7172)

### Assessment

A Level – 2 year course	
<p><b>Paper 1: Epistemology and Moral Philosophy</b>  <i>Epistemology</i> is the study of knowledge – within this topic students will study a range of theories on how we can justify the knowledge we have as well as ideas about the variation of perception.</p> <p><i>Moral Philosophy (ethics)</i> looks at the meaning of good and bad – students will look at the theories of utilitarianism, Kantian deontological ethics and Aristotelian virtue ethics. Students will also need to apply these theories to world issues such as stealing, simulated killing (video games) and lying. Students will explore and analyse the origins of human principles including reason, emotions and society.</p>	<p>Written exam: 3 hours            100 marks            50% of A-level</p>
<p><b>Paper 2: Metaphysics of God and Metaphysics of Mind</b>  <i>Metaphysics of God</i> is the analysis of the arguments relating to the existence of God. This unit is studied from a secular view point and students will study the theories of St. Anslem, Descartes and Hume. The nature or moral of natural evil is also studied along with Plantinga’s free will defence and John Hick’s soul-making theory.</p> <p><i>Metaphysics of Mind</i> is the exploration of the human understanding of ‘mind’. Students will study theories relating to different mental states and idea of intentionality and identity. They will analyse Descartes theory of dualism and evaluate contemporary challenges to his ideas. Students will also study the theories of physicalism and functionalism.</p>	<p>Written exam: 3 hours            100 marks            50% of A-level</p>

### This course will lead to:

Philosophy and Ethics A Level is highly regarded by universities and employers as it proves that you are able to think, discuss and evaluate. It is an excellent preparation for any humanities degree and careers in journalism, law, teaching, counselling and psychology and medicine and health.