Philosophy and Ethics

Exam Board OCR
Qualification A-level
Entry Requirements Grade 6 in Religious Education (or grade 6 in English Language or Literature if not studied before)

Content

Students will study 3 components during the two-year course:

Component 01: Philosophy of Religion
Students study philosophical language and thought, and issues and questions raised by belief including • Ancient philosophical influences • The nature of the soul, mind and body • Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God • The nature and impact of religious experience • The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil • Ideas about the nature of God • Issues in religious language

Component 02: Religious Ethics
Students explore key concepts and the works of influential thinkers, ethical theories and their application including • Normative ethical theories, Natural Law, Kant, Situation Ethics and Utilitarianism • The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance, Euthanasia and Business Ethics • Ethical language and thought • Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience • Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs

Component 03: Development in Christian Thought
Students study Christianity systematically and explore • Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world • Sources of religious wisdom and authority • Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition • Significant social/historical developments in theology and religious thought • Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

Assessment

Three externally assessed written exams comprising three sections. Four extended essay questions on each paper of which three are to be answered. Each exam is 2 hours in duration and worth 33.3% of the overall A-level.

Career Prospects

Philosophy and Ethics is a very popular subject that complements the other areas students choose to study. Many students find that taking this subject supports their learning in other subjects and it can lead to a variety of different careers. It is recommended that you opt for Religious Studies if you are interested in studying the following courses at university: Sociology, Psychology, Law, Nursing, English, Medicine, Philosophy, History or Theology. There are many more courses to which this A-level can lead.