

What do you see?



Why do we see things differently?

Philosophy and Ethics

There are now three parts to the Philosophy and Ethics course. The first part looks into big questions and ethical debates.

Philosophy:

Philosophy is looking at big questions or ideas which arise from the world we live in. Some of the questions we look at in the course are:

- Does God exist?
- What happens when we die?
- Does science replace the need for religion?
- What is evil?
- Can God still exist when there is so much suffering?

These questions are unanswerable, and therefore require learners to use **logic** and **evidence** to back up opinions.

Ethics:

Ethics is looking at big issues which arise in the world we live in. Some of the issues we look at in the course are:

- Value of life
- Relationships between humans
- Medical Ethics
- Capital punishment
- Racism
- Influence of the media

These issues are open for debate, and learners need to develop their opinions and use evidence and reasoning to explain their position as well as acknowledging the variety of different views.

Religious Studies

There is also a new third part to the course, where learners will look into the beliefs, teachings and practices of two religions. One of them being Christianity and the other being Islam. This will not be the teacher preaching at the learners or telling them what to believe but simply an insight into the religion.

Christianity:

The Nature of God
The Trinity
Concepts of God
Jesus
The importance to Christians of incarnation, crucifixion, resurrection and ascension.
Role of the church
Worship
Sacrament
Importance of pilgrimage

Islam

Nature of Allah
Prophethood
Risalah
Books
Angels
Eschatological beliefs and teachings
Life after death
Public Acts of Worship
Hajj
Zakat & Swam
Festivals/Special days
Jihad

A Popular Choice

Would it surprise you to learn that more students now take Philosophy and Ethics at GCSE and A Level than at any other time in the past?

Why has this subject increased in popularity over the past 10 years?

Our society is changing and we need to understand more about the change that is happening and become more tolerant of different religions and cultures?

What Skills are required?

- Discussing - giving your own ideas and opinions.
- Arguing from *different* points of view.
- Empathy to understand the views of someone else even when you disagree.
- Remembering key words and meanings.
- Using religious ideas, beliefs and teachings to back up a point of view.
- Writing extended essays about moral issues using facts and reasoning in their responses.

What Will They Study?

The Course is split up into topics as follows

Content overview	Assessment overview	
Beliefs and teachings & Practices Learners will be required to study 2 religions Christianity and another religion... Islam	The study of a first religion	25% of total GCSE
	The study of a second religion	25% of total GCSE
Religion, Philosophy and ethics in the modern world from a religious perspective Learners are required to study this component from the perspective of Christianity. <u>Four themes to be studied are...</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Relationships and families• The existence of God, and the ultimate reality• Religion, peace and conflict• Dialogue between religious and non-religious beliefs and attitudes.	Religion, philosophy and ethics in the modern world 126 marks 2 hour written paper	50% of total GCSE

What learners will gain:

- Our aim is for all learners to **understand more about the world around them** as well as understanding their **own opinions** and beliefs about a range of ideas, questions and issues.
- Through engaging in **discussion** and looking at different views they will develop **empathy** in **relating to the views of others** as well as being aware of the **reasons** behind certain beliefs or attitudes.
- Due to the subject requiring assessment to take place through the form of a **written essay** learners will develop skills in essay writing and **written communication**.
- Many learners find themselves becoming more **inquisitive** and **passionate about their views**, so expect some discussions at the dinner table!

Many learners might be daunted by the essay element of the course – there is plenty of support and guidance to develop this with them and while they do need to understand it is important, it shouldn't put them off!



Learners will be taught the course through a series of teacher led sessions, discussions and interactive resources. This allows them to stay independent whilst maintaining the balance of guidance and support with controversial and sensitive subjects.

Careers and Employment

- *Careers where it is important or useful to have knowledge of what really matters to people: **health care, child care, medicine, psychologist, customer services***
- *Careers which make good use of the research, investigatory and report writing techniques learned in studying religion: **law, police work (forensic), psychology, public services, management.***
- *Careers where you need specific knowledge of religions: **teaching, social work, archaeology, museum work, fine art, conservation/natural history, architecture, youth work***

Exam Details

- **Exam Board:** OCR
- **Website:** www.OCR.co.uk
- **Grade Range for each paper:** 1-9
- **Assessment:** 3 papers, 2 1 hour papers for Religions and a 2 hour paper for Philosophy and Ethics
- **Coursework:** No Coursework

Tonight's dinner table conversation?

If God is omnipotent (all-powerful) then could he create a boulder that was *too* heavy for him to lift?



Tonight's dinner table conversation?

Should drone strikes be allowed as part of conventional warfare?

