

Philosophy

Examination Board: AQA A

Level in Philosophy: 7172

What will I learn?

Epistemology

Explore what knowledge is, how we acquire it, and whether we can trust our senses. You'll examine theories of perception, certainty, and skepticism, asking questions like: *Can we ever truly know anything?*

Moral Philosophy

Investigate how we decide what is right and wrong. You'll study ethical theories such as Utilitarianism, Kantian ethics, and Virtue Ethics, and apply them to real-world issues like justice, human rights, and environmental ethics.

Metaphysics of God

Consider arguments for and against the existence of God, including the Ontological, Cosmological, and Teleological arguments, as well as challenges like the problem of evil. You'll also explore the nature and attributes of God.

Metaphysics of Mind

Examine the nature of consciousness and personal identity. Are we purely physical beings, or is there something non-material about the mind? You'll explore dualism, physicalism, and contemporary debates about AI and consciousness.

Who is the course suited to?

This course is ideal for students who enjoy critical thinking and debate, questioning assumptions, and exploring big ideas. It suits those with strong written skills, as the course is essay-based and requires clear, logical writing. If you are curious about big questions and different perspectives such as life, morality, knowledge, and reality, and want to develop transferable skills then Philosophy is a great choice.

Assessment

No Coursework

A Level: 2 x 3hr exams; Terminal examination

What is the structure of the course

- **Paper 1** – Epistemology & Moral Philosophy – 3 hours, essay-based questions
- **Paper 2** – Metaphysics of God & Metaphysics of Mind – 3 hours, essay-based questions

Assessment: 100% written exams

Reasons to consider doing Philosophy at A level:

- No specific GCSE requirement. The course starts from the basics, so all students can succeed.
- Explore life's biggest questions. If you enjoy thinking deeply about truth, morality, and reality, Philosophy is for you.
- Develop highly valued skills. Critical thinking, logical reasoning, and clear written communication are essential for university and careers.
- Links to many subjects. Philosophy complements English, History, Politics, Psychology, Business Studies, Economics and the Sciences. It also connects to STEM through logic, philosophy of science, and questions about space, time, and consciousness.
- Great for future opportunities. Philosophy is respected by universities and employers, opening doors to degrees in Law, PPE, Politics, Philosophy, Theology, Psychology, and even Physics, Mathematics, Computer Science (especially AI ethics and logic), and Economics.
- Engaging and challenging – You'll debate, analyse, and write essays on fascinating topics such as ethics, knowledge, and the nature of mind.