



Philosophy and Ethics

(Religious Studies)



Course Information

In Year 12, students will study a mix of Ethics and Philosophy in varied topics and applied situations. In Year 13 we study Developments in Christian Thought.



Course Content

In Ethics we study a number of ethical theories, including Natural Law, Kantian Ethics, Utilitarianism and Religious Ethics, and then apply them to topical issues like Euthanasia, Abortion, Genetic Engineering and War and Peace. Also explored are meta-ethics, free-will and determinism and the nature and role of conscience.

In Philosophy we study Religious Language, Religious Experiences (including Miracles, Conversion Experiences and the like), and cover other topics such as Aristotle and Plato, Arguments for the Existence of God including the Ontological, Cosmological, Teleological (Design) and Moral Arguments together with challenges to the belief in God.

In Developments in Christian Thought we study the teachings of Augustine, Death and the Afterlife, Knowledge of God's existence, The person of Jesus, Christian Moral Principles and Christian Moral action.

Entry Requirements

6 A*-C grades are required at GCSE. Students do not need to have studied Religious Studies at GCSE to undertake the A level course.

Future Opportunities

If you are planning to go into medicine or law this is an ideal course for you as you will have a head start when you come to study many of these issues at University. However, ethics and philosophy are equally useful in many other careers. Both subjects mix well with many other courses from Biology to English (and all the ones in between!). You will develop skills transferable between all your other courses, such as discussion and listening skills and research skills. This is a subject which is highly regarded by all universities because of the challenge and academic skills required.

