

Philosophy Linear A Level

Examination Board: AQA

Who should take this course?

- Anyone planning a career that involves the ability to evaluate ideas and understand complex issues.
- Anyone who enjoys questioning and debating issues of which there are no definitive answers.
- Anyone who wishes to have a better understanding of communities and society.
- Anyone who has ever thought about why people make the decisions and judgements that they do, particularly on matters of 'right' and 'wrong'.
- Anyone who has ever asked themselves difficult questions, such as: *What makes me 'Me'? Why am I here? Is there a God? Is there life after death? What makes this right and that wrong? Why did they do that?*

What is the course about?

- This course is designed to introduce students to the key methods and concepts in philosophy through the study of four broad themes: Epistemology; Philosophy of Religion; Ethics; and Philosophy of Mind. Students will develop and refine a range of transferable skills, such as the ability to ask penetrating questions, to analyse and evaluate the arguments of others and to present their own arguments clearly and logically.
- This philosophy specification asks these main questions:
 - What can we know?
 - Can the existence of God be proved?
 - How do we make moral decisions?
 - Are my mind and body separate?
- You will have the opportunity to engage in detailed analysis of philosophical texts which should act as a springboard for your future reading and reflection.

How is it assessed?

This is a LINEAR specification.

- There will be TWO exams at the end of the course. Each exam will be 3 hours and will be worth 50% of the final grade.
- You can opt to do the AS qualification which will be one 3 hour exam worth 100% of the final grade. The content is the same as the Year 1 linear specification.

Where will it take me?

- Philosophy **A-Level** is extremely well respected by colleges and universities.
- Students could go on to study Philosophy, Religious Studies, Politics, History, Geography, Medicine, English, Theology, Psychology, Sociology, and many other subjects.

Achievement Through Partnership

***Bishop's Hatfield Girls' School, Monk's Walk School, Onslow St Audrey's School,
Stanborough School, Sir Frederic Osborn School***

Course Details – Year 1

- **Epistemology**

Topics include:

- What is knowledge?
 - Definitions
 - The tripartite view of knowledge
- Perception as a source of knowledge
 - Direct /Indirect realism
 - Idealism
- Reason as a source of knowledge
 - Innatism
 - The intuition and deduction thesis
- The limits of knowledge
 - Different varieties of scepticism

- **Moral Philosophy**

Topics include:

- Normative ethical theories
 - Utilitarianism
 - Kantian deontological ethics
 - Aristotle's virtue ethics
- Applied ethics
 - Applying the normative theories to stealing, simulated killing, eating animals and telling lies
- Meta-ethics
 - Moral realism
 - Moral Anti-realism

Course Details – Year 2

- **Metaphysics of God**

Topics include:

- The concept and nature of God
 - Key terms, the paradox of the stone, the Euthyphro dilemma
- Arguments relating to the existence of God
 - Ontological arguments, design arguments, cosmological arguments, the problem of evil,
- Religious language
 - Logical positivism, cognitivist and non-cognitivist accounts of religious language

- **Metaphysics of Mind**

Topics include:

- What do we mean by 'mind'?
 - Features of mental states
- Dualist theories
 - Substance dualism
 - Property dualism
- Physicalist theories
 - Physicalism
 - Mind-brain type identity theory
 - Eliminative materialism
- Functionalism