



A level

Philosophy

What will I learn?

Philosophy is the study of knowledge; it seeks to explain all forms of knowledge and why we think in the way that we do. It can be very intellectually challenging and very rewarding as a result. The course focuses on a variety of very different areas of philosophy: Epistemology (the theory of knowledge itself), Moral philosophy (ethics), the Metaphysics of God and the Metaphysics of Mind.

Students will learn to analyse and evaluate the philosophical arguments within each topic to form reasoned judgements.

In doing this, they will understand the ways in which philosophers have analysed the core concepts of philosophy, and be able to identify how subtle differences in analyses can have wider impacts on philosophical arguments. They will also understand the main philosophical arguments within topics, through the works of philosophers, and articulate those arguments in appropriate forms, correctly, clearly and precisely

What could this course lead on to?

Students will develop important critical thinking skills that they need for progression to higher education and working life. They will learn to be clear and precise in their thinking and writing. They will engage with complex texts, analysing and evaluating the arguments of famous philosophers through the ages and will construct and defend their own arguments in philosophical debate.

A qualification in philosophy is a strong signal to employers that you can think well about almost anything, so it can provide entry into a particularly wide range of occupations from computer programmers and those working with artificial intelligence to lawyers and senior managers in business.

Philosophy is a good preparation and training for many degree subjects, which is why it is on the 'preferred' subject lists for many universities.

Entry Requirements: grade 6 in GCSE English and Maths (preferred, however grades 5 will also be considered).

Key content and assessment

Paper 1:	Epistemology and moral philosophy	• Written exam: 3 hours • 100 marks • 50% of A-level Questions • Section A: Five questions on epistemology • Section B: Five questions on moral philosophy
Paper 2:	The metaphysics of God and the metaphysics of mind	Written exam: 3 hours • 100 marks • 50% of A-level Questions

Course Details

Awarding Body: AQA

Qualification Number: 603/0684/1

Website: www.aqa.org.uk Specification Number: 7172

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