



Philosophy and Ethics

Qualification

OCR GCSE in Religious Studies B: Philosophy and Ethics

Objectives

This OCR GCSE in Philosophy and applied Ethics course balances the study of religious beliefs in Christianity, whilst taking account of the teaching and practices of *at least one other World Religion*. It develops knowledge and understanding of religions through exploration of the significance and impact of beliefs about God, philosophical teachings, ethical decision making and practices, ways of life and forms of expressing meaning. You may also learn to express your personal responses and informed insights on issues about identity, belonging, meaning, purpose, truth, values and commitments.

Overview

Throughout history, religion has expressed the deepest questions human beings can ask, and it has taken a central place in the lives of all civilizations and cultures. We find religion everywhere, when we turn on television, in film, in popular music, in our towns and cities. Religion is also at the center of global issues and conflict. We see religion in the lives of the people we know, and in ourselves. Religious traditions are adaptable, that is why they survive. Philosophical study will help you to understand the very nature of belief. Ethical studies examine the impact of beliefs on life situations.

Skills

"He who learns but does not think, is lost! He who thinks but does not learn is in great danger. The essence of knowledge is, having it, to apply it"
(Confucius, Chinese Philosopher).

Employers need people who are tolerant and open-minded, good at problem-solving, independent critical thinkers, organized, enquiring, adaptable and informed individuals. Studying Philosophy and Ethics will provide you with these skills and more.

Course Content

There are 4 units in the course

2 units of Philosophy covering
The nature of God, Religious and Spiritual Experience, End of Life
Good and Evil, Revelation, Science & Religion

2 units of Ethics covering:
Relationships, Medical Ethics, Poverty and Wealth
Peace and Justice, Equality, Media

Assessment

Each individual unit equals 25% of the total GCSE marks
4x1 hr written paper (marked out of 48). The exams can be taken in stages, as long as 50% are taken in Year 11
Each question paper has six questions, focusing on different religions, on each of the 3 topics. Candidates are required to answer **two** questions **from any two topic areas**.
All units are externally assessed. No coursework involved.