

A Level Philosophy and Ethics at Hereford Sixth form College.

Key information

- ★ A Level Philosophy and Ethics is made up of three components.
- ★ Each one of these three components are equally weighted.
- ★ There are three exams at the end of Year 2 and each of these are two hours long.
- ★ There is no coursework in this subject.
- ★ We will be following the **EDUQAS EXAM BOARD**, which is part of the exam board WJEC (Welsh Joint Education Committee.)
- ★ There is an entry requirement of Grade 6 in English but if you don't quite meet this, we may well still accept you on the course.

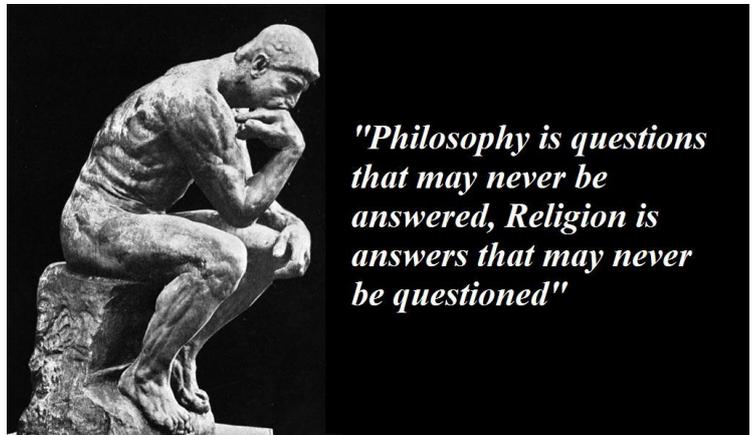
Component 1 – Christianity 33%

Religious figures and sacred texts including the life of Jesus and who he really was.
Religious concepts and religious life including is God male and does God suffer?
Significant social and historical developments in religious thought including attitudes to wealth, immigration, feminist theology, New Atheism.
Religious practices that shape religious identity including baptism and Christmas.



Component 2 – Philosophy of Religion 33%

Arguments for the existence of God inductive and deductive.
Challenges to religious belief including the problem of evil and suffering and psychological arguments against God.
Religious Experience including case studies and miracles.
Religious language including mythical language and symbolic language.



Component 3 – Ethics and Religion 33%

Ethical Thought including issues such as whether being a good person is better than just doing good deeds.
Deontological Ethics applied to abortion, voluntary euthanasia, immigration and capital punishment.
Teleological ethics applied to homosexual relationships, polyamorous relationships, animal experimentation for medical research and the use of nuclear weapons as a deterrent.
Determinism and Free will including the extent to which an individual has free choice.



Is Philosophy and Ethics compatible with my other options?

Psychology	In Philosophy we look at Freud's views on religion and in Ethics we look at how free we really are, are actions really our choice?
English Literature	As part of the development of Religious Thought we will analyse texts in the Bible and examine the way meaning and purpose has been applied to them.
English Language	In Philosophical and Ethical language we look at the meaning of words, how people use language to influence society and actions.
Business Studies	In the Ethics portion of the course we study about free will and decision making.
History	The Philosophy and Ethics course looks at the development of thought throughout history. The analysis and evaluative skills needed are very similar and students often find the subjects complement each other.
Health and Social Care	As part of the specification students will examine medical ethical issues.
Sciences	In all components we examine the contribution and challenges that science presents to philosophy, religious faith and moral approaches.
Sociology	The specification examines gender roles, secularism the moral perspective on immigration and punishment. The increasing impact of society on religious thought is a key part of this A Level.

Further Information.

- ★ The Russell Group of top universities has made it clear that this A level provides 'suitable preparation for University generally'.
- ★ Both Oxford and Cambridge University include this A level in the top level list of 'generally suitable Arts A levels'.
- ★ Research from the Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring at Durham University on the comparative difficulty of different subjects at A level showed that this A level was 'in the middle difficulty range, similar to Geography and more'.

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS AT A-LEVEL

WHAT WILL I DO IN A LEVEL PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS?

- ! You will **learn** about **different philosophical approaches** and **Christian responses** to the way we decide on good, bad, right and wrong in our moral decision making. You will consider the ethical implications of freedom and determinism and ethical language.
- ! You will **learn** about **different philosophical and theological** arguments concerning the existence of God, the problem of evil, religious language and religious experience in Christianity.
- ! You will **learn** about religious figures, texts, concepts, thought and practice within the **world religion of Christianity**.
- ! You will have to **know** and **understand** these approaches in **real detail** for the examination.
- ! You will have to be able **to write very well**, understand **difficult technical language** and give your opinion supported by **really good evidence and examples**.
- ! You must **enjoy thinking** about difficult concepts and **learning** about them in depth.
- ! You will study **three units of learning** in a **linear A level** over two years
- ! You will **complete structured essays**.
- ! Examinations are **in June of your 2nd year** for A level.

WHAT SORT OF STUDENT SHOULD I BE?

- ✓ You must be **interested** and **committed to studying** and **working very hard**, and **enjoy working independently**.
- ✓ You must **enjoy reading** and engaging with **difficult concepts** and **terminology**.
- ✓ You must be able to enjoy **writing effectively and at length**.
- ✓ You must be **open to new ideas** and **new ways of thinking**.
- ✓ You must **enjoy discussion** and **debate** and be prepared to participate.



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