

## Philosophy Course Description

Philosophy is the study of ideas. It addresses some of the most important and interesting questions humans can ask and places great value on reason and the ability to think logically and critically.

- Entry requirements:

Philosophy A level is an academically demanding subject and only students with at least a B in English language GCSE should consider applying. Topics Covered:

In the first year students will study **Epistemology** and explore questions such as *what do we really know?* and *where do our ideas come from?* They will also study **The Philosophy of Religion** and tackle questions such as *is God's existence provable?* and *is our concept of God coherent?*

In the second year of the course students will go on to study **Ethics** and try to answer questions such as *why should I be good?* and *is morality cultural or universal?* They will also study **The Philosophy of Mind** and debate such questions as *are minds synonymous to brains?* and *will machines ever truly think?*

- Exam Board:
- AQA
- Exam Format:

Philosophy A level will retain the AS/A2 structure until 2017.

**AS Exam (100% final AS grade 50% final A-level grade)**

**3 hours written exam. Total marks 80. Compulsory questions**

**A2 Exam (50% final A-level grade)**

**3 hours written exam. Total marks 100. Compulsory questions.**

- Controlled Assessment Requirements: None.
- Progression/Pathways:

Philosophy can be studied at degree level it is also helpful for students thinking of embarking on careers in law or politics or any work that requires good arguing and analytic skills.

- Suggested reading:

A good introduction to the subject is *'The Problems of Philosophy'* by Bertrand Russell published by Oxford University Press.

You might also find the following general texts useful:

*The Philosopher's Toolkit* by Julian Baggini and Peter S. Fosl published by Blackwell Publishing.

*Issues in Philosophy* by Calvin Pinchin published by Macmillan Education.

*The Fundamental Questions of Philosophy* by A.C. Ewing published by Routledge.

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