

Philosophy and Ethics

Exam Offered: OCR AS/A2 Religious Studies (G571/G572 & G581/G582)

Teachers for 6th Form

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Department Learning and Teaching Policy and Practice

“The unexamined life is not worth living”

Socrates

Studying Philosophy and Ethics requires much more from you than learning a set of facts. You must develop your own ideas in order to be successful in the elements of the course that require you to evaluate the arguments you will encounter as you study. Your teachers expect to be able to work alongside you in the common enquiry of philosophy and ethics and its ability to help us make sense of the lives we lead and our struggles to answer life’s ultimate questions.

- **Master Learner**

In order to be a successful Philosophy and Ethics student you will need to develop various skills, attitudes, attributes, and behaviours. We group these together as steps on your **Master Learner Learning Journey**. We believe that any student can achieve the very highest quality work and grades. Improvement and excellence is achieved through commitment, focus and effort. In the table below you can see some broad descriptions of steps that you might take on your journey. We have called these steps Novice, Apprentice, Practitioner, Expert, and Master. It is possible that you will start your journey at Novice or Apprentice level, it is hoped that by the end of your course you will be working at Expert or Master level. The sooner you work at the higher levels the better your time on the course and, therefore, your grades will be. There will be a formal Master Learner Assessment and Review at least twice a year.

Master Learner Learning Journey. (Philosophy and Ethics)

<p>Novice: Largely unable (or unprepared) to learn independently. Little ability to corral relevant information. Refers only to textbook. Struggles to construct a balanced argument from material. Has little, or no, considered argument so is easily swayed from a viewpoint by other students. Developmental need to reflect on work and teacher comments. Organisation is largely absent. Communication typically unclear or disorganised.</p>
<p>Apprentice: Can focus on own learning with some support from others. Shows limited knowledge but displays this accurately. Limited understanding evidenced through a lack of depth in research. Rarely reflects on work and teacher comments. May go to general internet search as well as textbook. Some selection of material is either inappropriate or cited inaccurately. Has a viewpoint but defends stance weakly. Limited use of technical terms. Organisation is a development point. Some clarity and accuracy in communication.</p>
<p>Practitioner: Makes a satisfactory attempt to be a self-learner. Exhibits mostly accurate knowledge of the course material. Generally shows appropriate understanding. Can justify a viewpoint. Shows some successful knowledge of what material to quote and some accurate use of technical terms. Sometimes reflects on work and teacher comments. May go to Internet and Library for additional sources. Some organisation. Some clarity of communication.</p>
<p>Expert: Strives to be a self-learner. Highly developed research skills. Possesses a very good grasp of the course material. Accurate in discerning and deploying relevant evidence. Technical terms mostly accurate with some successful and clear analysis. Often reflects on work and teacher comments. May go to specialist Internet websites for Philosophy and Ethics rather than do a Google search on terms. Likely to be able to put forward more than one point of view competently. Communication is generally clear and organised.</p>
<p>Master Excellent self-learner. Passionate. Confident. Resilient. Persuasive. Flexible and responsive. Consummate research skills. Shows exemplary knowledge and understanding of the course material. Very high level of ability to discern and deploy relevant evidence. Reflects deeply on work and comments made by teacher. Peerless grasp of technical terms. Unflustered by the need to analyse various sources of evidence. Organisation and time management are their watchwords. Communication is cogent and well constructed.</p>

- **Assessment Policy and Practice:**

You will be assessed on a day-to-day basis, periodically and transitionally

Day-to-Day:

Class Discussion: you will be asked to discuss your work and that of others critically. You will use your notebook to reflect on your work and capture/write down comments. You will assess your work and that of others and you will mark your work and that of others using the exam criteria. Your teacher will comment on your work regularly and you should note this down in your notebook. Timed essays in class will be teacher and/or peer and self-assessed.

Periodic:

You will receive detailed comments for major pieces of essay work. You will also self and peer assess this work. You will receive a progress report, a mock report and two master learner current performance reports per year.

Transitional:

You will sit 2 external exams in Year 12 and 2 external exams in Year 13. These will be:

- AS Philosophy of Religion (1.5 hours)
- AS Religious Ethics (1.5 hours)
- A2 Philosophy of Religion (1.5 hours)
- A2 Religious Ethics (1.5 hours)

Course Outline:

- **Year 12**

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intro to the course • AS Philosophy of Religion: • Plato • Aristotle • Judaeo-Christian concepts of God and the Goodness of God • Traditional arguments for the existence of God • Challenges to religious beliefs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AS Religious Ethics: • Natural Moral Law • Kantian Ethics • Utilitarianism • Christian Ethics • Applied Ethics: Abortion, Euthanasia, Genetic Engineering, War and Peace 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revision • A2 Religious Ethics Introduction: Metaethics; Virtue Ethics; Free Will and Determinism; Conscience; Environmental Ethics, and Sexual Ethics.
Suggested reading/resources: <i>Philosophy of Religion for AS</i> – Wilkinson and Campbell <i>The Routledge Concise Encyclopedia of Philosophy.</i> <i>A Concise Encyclopedia of the Philosophy of Religion</i> Anthony C. Thistleton	<i>Ethical Studies (2nd Edition)</i> Robert Bowie <i>Examining Philosophy and Ethics</i> Patrick J Clarke <i>Moral Philosophy</i> Jones, Cardinal and Hayward	<i>Ethical Studies (2nd Edition)</i> Robert Bowie <i>Examining Philosophy and Ethics</i> Patrick J Clarke <i>Moral Philosophy</i> Jones, Cardinal and Hayward
Key pieces of work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays on: • Plato and the Analogy of the Cave • Aristotle and the Four Causes • The Goodness of God • The Ontological Argument 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays on: • Kant’s Moral Argument • Aquinas and Natural Moral Law • Utilitarianism • Kant and Euthanasia Mock Exam	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays on: • Metaethics • Free Will and Determinism

• **Year 13**

Autumn Term	Spring Term	Summer Term
<p>A2 Philosophy of Religion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Religious Language • Religious Experience: Experience and Religion; Revelation; Miracle • Nature of God • Life and Death; The Soul 	<p>A2 Religious Ethics Recap:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Metaethics; Virtue Ethics; Free Will and Determinism; Conscience; Environmental Ethics, and Sexual Ethics. <p>Mock Exam</p>	<p>Three week revision of both modules</p> <p>(Finish at Summer half-Term)</p>
<p>Suggested reading/resources</p> <p><i>Philosophy of Religion for A2</i> – Wilkinson and Campbell <i>The Thinker's Guide to God</i> – Vardy & Arliss</p>	<p><i>The Puzzle of Ethics</i> – Vardy <i>Practical Ethics</i> – Peter Singer <i>A New Dictionary of Christian Ethics</i> – Macquarrie & Childress</p>	
<p>Major pieces of work</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays on: • The Verification/Falsification Principles • Life after Death and the Problem of Evil • Miracles • Boethius 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Essays on: • Virtue Ethics • Conscience • Business Ethics • Environmental Ethics 	

Wider Learning Opportunities

For our more able students a Philosophy study day to Oxford University is arranged and Villiers Park extension tasks are set at AS and A2 level.

Students are made aware of other University “Taster” events in Philosophy that they can attend, for example, the days run by both Heythrop College and King’s College, London.

Philosophy and Ethics students are expected to complete two and a half hours of additional study each week and to log this in a notebook that they will receive at the beginning of the academic year.

Contemporary news items from the magazine *The Tablet* (as well as other sources) are often picked up and discussed, so students are expected to keep up with current affairs and consider how these could be applicable to Philosophy and Ethics.

We offer e-mail study support services through the School Intranet for any Philosophy and Ethics student who may wish to use this facility.

Wider Reading and Study:

Wider reading is expected of all students at AS/A2 in Philosophy and Ethics.

Books

- Cole, P. **Philosophy of Religion**, Hodder 1999
Davies, B. **An Introduction to the Philosophy of Religion**, OUP 1993
Gaarder, J. **Sophie’s World** Phoenix 1994
Honderich, T. **The Oxford Companion to Philosophy**, OUP 1995
Jordan, A Lockyer, N and Tate, E **Philosophy of Religion For A Level**, Nelson Thornes, 2004
Pailin, D. **Groundwork of Philosophy of Religion** Epworth, 1994
Richards, H. J. **Philosophy of Religion**, (Second Edition) Heinemann 1999
Thompson, M. **Teach yourself ethics**, Hodder 1995
Thompson, M. **Teach yourself the Philosophy of Religion**, Hodder 1995
Thompson, M. **Ethical Theory** Hodder 1999
Thompson, M. **Religion and Science** (Ch 4 – Psychology and Sociology Ch 8 – Freedom and Determinism, Ch 9 – Miracles) Hodder 1999
Thompson, M. **An Introduction to Philosophy**, Hodder 1995
Vardy, P. **The Puzzle of God** Fount 1999
Vardy, P **The Puzzle of Evil** Fount 1992
Grosch, P and Vardy, P **The Puzzle of Ethics** Fount 1999

Websites:

- <http://ethics.sandiego.edu/> - Ethics Update v.useful website from University Of California San Diego
<http://re-xs.ucsm.ac.uk/ethics/>
www.intute.ac.uk/artsandhumanities
www.epistemelinks.com/index.aspx - Philosophy resources on the internet
<http://noesis.evansville.edu/> - Philosophy web portal
www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/ - BBC ethics and religion website
<http://caae.phil.cmu.edu/Cavalier/80130/index.html> - Online guide to ethics and moral philosophy
www.earlham.edu/~peters/philinks.htm - Guide to Philosophy on the Internet
www.philosophersimprint.org/ - Free philosophy reference website
users.ox.ac.uk/~worc0337/phil_index.html#philos - Philosophy Around the Web
www.religion-online.org/ - Full text entries for recognised religious scholars
www.prs.heacademy.ac.uk/index.html - Centre for philosophical and religious studies

www.wabashcenter.wabash.edu/resources/guide_headings.aspx_ - Internet guide to Religion
http://www.ccel.org/_ - Christian Classics Ethereal Library
www.philfilms.utm.edu/_ - Films with a philosophical theme

Journals:

Think, Royal Institute of Philosophy

Philosophy Now

Philosopher's Magazine

Dialogue

www.artdisputandi.org