

	PHILOSOPHY	
	Qualification Level	A-Level
	Exam Board/ Syllabus	AQA
Contact(s)	Mr Readman	

Why Study This Course?

Philosophy is increasingly important in the business world as its emphasis on reasoning skills enables the identification and implementation of solutions throughout society. As a result, philosophy is in the top 10 for degrees that increase your employability. Therefore career opportunities are very broad: from broadcasting and new technology, to publishing and teaching, in fact any form of work involving the evaluation of ideas. Philosophy is also accepted as an entry qualification for Further and Higher Education courses. It develops a wide range of skills, including those essential for enquiry, interpretation, reasoning, evaluation, communication and problem solving.

Course Content/Assessment Pattern/ Structure

Section 1	<p>Epistemology - This section explores questions in four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is knowledge? This section looks particularly propositional knowledge, and the conditions necessary for positional knowledge including the tripartite view. • Perception as a source of knowledge. This section looks at how humans perceive information and whether it is shaped by the world and/or our minds. • Reason as the source of knowledge looks at how concepts such as innatism, intuitionism shape arguments concerning where ideas come from. • The limits of knowledge look at the nature and role of philosophical scepticism and how it contrasts with normal incredulity.
Section 2	<p>Moral Philosophy -This section explores questions in three areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Normative ethical theories. This area looks at the ideas of good, bad, wrong and right within utilitarianism, Kantian deontology and Aristotle's virtue ethics. • Applied Ethics applies these ethical theories to a range of ethical situations to assess how effectively the theories provide solutions to practical problems. • Meta-ethics considers the origins of moral principles, such as reason and emotion, and challenges facing the use of ethical language, including intuitionism and emotivism.
Section 3	<p>Metaphysics of God - This section also has three parts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The concept and nature of 'God' includes the meanings and problems associated with ideas such as omnipotence, timeless nature of God and the Euthyphro dilemma. • Arguments relating to the existence of God investigate the content and evaluate the strength of the ontological, design and cosmological arguments, as well as the challenge posed by the problem of evil. • Religious language addresses challenges such as verification and falsification, and the cognitive and non-cognitive uses of religious language.
Section 4	<p>Metaphysics of Mind - This section investigates four areas:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What do we mean by 'mind'? This considers the features of mental states, and the role of phenomenal and intentional properties. • Dualist theories investigate dualism and its arguments about the mind including Descartes, 'philosophical zombies' and empirical challenges to the concept. • Physicalist theories examine arguments concerning physicalism/materialism, which covers behaviourism and the relationship between brain state and mental state. • Functionalism looks at whether mental states can be characterised in terms of functional roles and criticisms of these ideas.

Exam Structure

The course comprises of four sections that are assessed by two exams, each three hours long. The first exam assesses the sections on Epistemology and Moral Philosophy. The second exam covers the sections on the Metaphysics of God and the Metaphysics of the Mind. Each exam is worth 50% of the overall A-Level mark.

<i>Business & Innovation</i>	<i>English</i>	<i>Expressive Arts & Languages</i>	Humanities	<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>PE</i>	<i>Science</i>
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