



Philosophy A level (AQA)

Why study this subject?

The Philosophy course has been designed to introduce you to the key methods and concepts in philosophy through the study of four broad themes: epistemology, moral philosophy, metaphysics of God, and metaphysics of mind. You will develop and refine a range of transferable skills, such as the ability to ask penetrating questions, to analyse and evaluate the arguments of others and to present your own arguments clearly and logically.

You can find out more about A level Philosophy at our school on our department's website, questioningeducation.co.uk.

Entry Requirements

Please see the entry requirements page on the school website.

Content

The Philosophy course asks important questions, including:

- What can we know?
- Can the existence of God be proven?
- How do we make moral decisions?
- Are my mind and body separate?

These questions are fundamental and the material covered in the specification not only provide you with a good understanding of how these debates have, so far, been framed, but also acts as a springboard for consideration and discussion of your own ideas. The range of question types at A level ensures that students are assessed across a core of important philosophical skills. Short-tariff items assess your accuracy and precision; longer-tariff items assess your ability to articulate a particular argument in a clear and concise way; and open-ended writing tasks assess your ability to construct and evaluate arguments. You will have the opportunity to engage in detailed analysis of philosophical texts, using an anthology as a springboard for further reading and reflection. The anthology contains extracts from a range of philosophical texts. You are expected to develop a detailed knowledge and understanding of them.

Assessment

There are two examination papers; both are three hours long.

- Paper 1: Epistemology and Moral Philosophy.
- Paper 2: Metaphysics of God and Metaphysics of Mind.

Future courses and possible careers

Philosophy is an academically respected subject and therefore provides an excellent platform for undergraduate study in related disciplines. Philosophy cultivates literacy, oracy, collaboration, independent thinking, and other work-related skills, making it good preparation for a range of careers.