

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

WHAT WILL I STUDY?

Year 1

If you like to try to answer unanswerable questions, then this is the subject for you! Students study three units during the year. These serve as an introduction to Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christian Thought.

Philosophy

The philosophy module includes a fascinating exploration of our understanding of reality: the nature and existence of God and life after death: the problem of evil and religious experience. The module examines some of the great philosophers such as Plato, Aristotle and Hume and how their ideas compare with the Judaeo-Christian influences in philosophy.

Ethics

The second unit is an introduction to Ethics. Students explore and evaluate the ethical approaches of philosophers such as Aquinas, Fletcher and Aristotle, and compare these with the ethical principles of the Christian religion. They also have the opportunity to apply these approaches to areas such as euthanasia and business ethics.

Developments in Christian Thought

Students will also have the opportunity to examine the developing views of issues such as the nature of humanity, the person of Jesus and the work of Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

Year 2

The course includes and builds on the areas studied in Year 1, including the debate between religion and science, miracles, life after death and the meaning and interpretation of religious language.

In addition, students will develop an awareness of the nature of the conscience and meta ethics (what we mean by good, bad, right and wrong). Students will also examine feminist ideas of theology.

HOURS OF STUDY (FORTNIGHTLY)

9 hours of lesson time
6 hours independent learning

ASSESSMENT

Year 2: Three 2-hour examinations



CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

This course equips students for a great number of career areas as it develops many sought-after skills. These include: an appreciation of different viewpoints; the ability to evaluate and solve problems; effective communication skills; debating and presenting research.

The course also develops a breadth of critical thinking which enhances personal development and an awareness of global issues. This subject is useful for students wishing to go on to university and is relevant to any career which involves working with people in areas such as the Media, Medicine, Education, Psychology, Law etc. In recent years, students have gone on to study degrees in Education at Plymouth Marjon and International Relations at Exeter University.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Five GCSEs, or equivalent, grade 5 or above are required for entry into Sixth Form to study A Level.

Grade 5 GCSE or above is required in your chosen, or related subject, including English Language.