

Key Stage 4: GCSE Philosophy and Ethics

What will I learn?

The course provides an opportunity for you to:

- Build upon the skills and understanding you have developed in Key Stage 3 Philosophy & Ethics
- Develop skills of communication, critical enquiry and reflective evaluation
- Broaden your understanding of predominantly the Christian and Buddhist religions
- Develop a personal response to a range of philosophical and ethical issues
- Explore philosophical topics such as: the existence of God; the nature of good and evil; religious experience and life after death
- Explore ethical issues such as: medical ethics (abortion, euthanasia, genetic engineering); wealth and poverty; justice; and equality.

Year 11:

- Buddhism: beliefs and teaching and practices
 - Human Rights and Social Justice
 - The Existence of God and Revelation
 - In-depth look at a range of religious and secular responses to each theme.
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How will I be assessed?

The course that follows the AQA specification will be assessed through written examination papers only - 2 papers each 1 hour and 45 minutes long; each constitute 50% of the GCSE grade

Paper 1- The Study of Religions: beliefs, teaching and practices (Christianity and Buddhism)

Paper 2 – Thematic Studies: 4 philosophical and ethical themes including; Religion and Life, Religion Peace & Conflict, Religion, Crime & Punishment, Religion, Human Rights and Social Justice

How will I be taught?

Students will be taught through a variety of activities that aim to provide opportunities for every learning style. Such activities include:

- Discussion activities including structured debates and mock trials
- Group work such as role-play
- Presentations on specific topics
- Independent research tasks.