

A Level Ethics & Philosophy OCR

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LINEAR

Why study Ethics & Philosophy?

Having an open mind is a crucial skill in life and no subject will open your mind quite like this one. Whilst you might not use the content very often in future life, we will teach you vital critical and analytical skills that are highly valued in both the workplace and at universities. This is a rigorous and academic subject that is not for the faint hearted and we guarantee that it will change your outlook on life.

About the course

This course takes a wide-ranging look at the critical traditions of western ideas, covering Philosophy, Ethics and Christian Thought – we cover everything from the creation of the universe to the existence of evil. You will be taught by Mr Fern and Miss Barber who are both subject specialists.

Year 12

We will introduce you to some of the core concepts that underpin the western philosophical tradition – things like the nature of God and arguments for His existence, concepts of morality and the nature of the self. We consider whether or not we have a soul, whether evil is a thing (and if it is, what does that mean for God?) and what potentially awaits us after death. We also consider ethical theories like Utilitarianism and Natural Law and apply them to real world contexts like business practices and euthanasia.

Year 13

Developing on the core ideas in Year 12 we look at issues like the rise of Secularism and the place that Christianity has in the world today. We consider theories of conscience, the philosophy of language and the nature of time as well as issues of sex, gender, and the Christian use of Marxism

Assessment

Three 2-hour external exams at the end of Year 13. One on Philosophy, one on Ethical Theories and one on Christian Thought. You will answer three questions from four options, each of which is worth 40 marks.

Entry criteria

Grade 6 in either English Literature/Language and a 6 in one other essay-based humanities subject (History, Geography, Sociology, EP etc) – You do not need to have studied EP at GCSE.

Outside the classroom

Preparatory reading for lessons and essay planning/ writing on a regular basis

