

Philosophy A Level

AQA Advanced Subsidiary (AS) | Advanced Level (A2)
Head of Social Sciences Department – Katie Harrington

You should do this course if.....

You have a genuine interest in asking questions about human life and existence and have a questioning mind that accepts the principle that not all 'puzzles' have solutions.

Students choosing this course must be prepared to learn to write clearly and concisely and listen carefully to different ideas, concepts and theories by various philosophers both past and present. Students should also be willing to develop skills of critical analysis and be willing to engage in sensible debates.

Prior study of philosophy is not required for entry into this subject but students will need to do plenty of background reading and note-taking outside of formal lessons.

Skills you will develop on this course

This course will not only give you a depth of knowledge about the subject content but also it will give and develop skills in the following:

- Clear & Logical thinking
- Critical evaluation
- Literacy & Expression
- Negotiating
- Organising
- Planning
- Problem solving
- Research

Topics studied

UNIT 1 - (AS)

Introduction to Philosophy 1

Students will study themes from most of the main branches of philosophy and will explore philosophical issues concerning knowledge, politics, religion, ethics, and the mind.

UNIT 2 - (AS)

Introduction to Philosophy 2

Students' introduction to some of the main themes of philosophy continues with further investigations into the areas of knowledge, politics, religion, ethics and also art.

UNIT 3 – (A2)

Key Themes in Philosophy

This unit extends students' understanding in the area philosophy of religion and philosophy of mind.

UNIT 4 – (A2)

Philosophical Problems

This unit examines philosophical problems raised in a classical philosophical text. Students will become familiar with one of the following texts: Descartes' *Meditations*, or Hume's *Enquiries*.

Philosophy

A Level

How will you learn?

Highlighting handouts; taking notes from presentations, textbooks, video or dictation; group research and presentations; using pasts A level stimulus-response and essay questions; library and internet research; discussion; written activities, reading and taking notes from reading lists.

Where does the course lead?

Philosophy at degree level has everything that philosophy at A level has to offer, but with much more depth and achievement.

Philosophy graduates can expect a favourable response from big businesses and City firms, banks, management consultancies, and chartered accountants who appreciate the essential thinking skills acquired through the study of philosophy. Philosophy students also go into law, politics, the civil service, journalism, advertising and education.

Assessment and Exams

Unit 1

AS Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes.
Students will be required to answer two structured essay questions from a choice of five.

Unit 2

AS Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes.
Students will be required to answer two structured essay questions from a choice of five.

Unit 3

A2 Written exam: 2 hours.
Students will be required to answer two structured essay questions from two different sections.

Unit 4

A2 Written exam: 1 hour 30 minutes.
Students will be required to answer one compulsory question and one essay question from a choice of two. Students will only choose the questions from the section in the examination paper based on their studied text.

Entry Requirements

5C's at GCSE including a grade C or above in English Language.