

Philosophy, Ethics and Buddhism

Qualifications

Exam board: Eduqas 601/8700/1

End of Year 13 - A Level (two year course only). No coursework. 100% examination.

Entry Requirements

A minimum of 5 passes at grade 5 or grade C (including English and Maths). A minimum of a grade 6 in RS is recommended but a 5 considered with a strong performance in the exam.

Skills Required

Analyse, develop and formulate logical arguments.

Capability to make knowledgeable decisions, examining thoroughly the consequences of various actions.

Aptitude to examine various angles of topics.

Ability to write and speak clearly and effectively.

Interpret and assess various thoughts and theories.

Prepared to have your thinking constantly challenged.

Open-mind willing to be shaped.

Course Outline

The areas of study in this course are fascinating: Philosophy being the original art of thinking from which all other academic subjects have arisen; Ethics (being a branch of Philosophy itself) is the study of how human beings ought to behave; Eastern Philosophy (Buddhism). We will analyse ultimate questions and sources of wisdom such as 'what do we believe and why do we believe it?' 'Who are we and why are we here?' 'What ought we do and why should we do it?' Philosophy and ethics encourages critical and systematic inquiry into fundamental questions of right and wrong, truth and falsehood, the meaning of life, and the nature of reality, knowledge and society. More than any other discipline, philosophy and ethics explores the core issues of the Western intellectual tradition. The additional academic study of Eastern Philosophy and Buddhism enables a contrast of thinking.

You will be well supplied with texts and given clear guidance on what to read and when and how to organise your work. Your essay writing skills will mature to a level which will benefit essay writing in other academic courses and give you confidence to cope with essay writing at degree level. The Philosophy and Ethics department are part of the Plymouth Hub working alongside other schools in the city. This will enable you to encounter a variety of learning experiences, including global video conferences with international peers.

Student Testimony

"RS gives you the opportunities and skills that I will use throughout my chosen university and future career. Philosophy and Ethics has developed my skillset, which I will definitely use in my degree" George Burdon (Deputy Head Boy, 2016-2017).

"This subject makes you question everything. This subject enables us to discuss and explore ultimate reality and think how things come about. Without a doubt, this is the most useful subject. I love the global video-conferences, which complements our academic learning further" Ben Gillet (Head Boy, 2016-2017).

Career Paths & Degree Courses

In 2015 40% of students studying at Oxford or Cambridge university studied Philosophy and Ethics at A Level due to the academic rigour and skill-sets developed throughout the course. The qualification is highly regarded by universities and employers because of its underlying skills base. Philosophy and Ethics at A Level is as useful to those students considering Further Education as it is to pupils entering employment. The skills of empathy, evaluation, forming a coherent argument, critical analysis and debate are applicable across a wide range of professions. It is an excellent preparation for a career in law, medicine, business, international diplomacy, social work, banking, armed forces, public relations, publishing, journalism, retail, librarian, counselling, marketing, consulting, civil service, teaching and accountancy (to name just a few)!

All exams at the end of Year 13. No coursework

Paper 1 - Philosophy of Religion - 2 hour written exam

Paper 2 - Religion and Ethics - 2 hour written exam

Paper 3 - Eastern Philosophy (Buddhism) - 2 hour written exam