



Philosophy A Level

Why Philosophy?

Philosophy involves asking and exploring fundamental questions such as: What is knowledge? Do we perceive the world, or is our perception deceptive? Does God exist, and how does the problem of evil challenge this belief? What is the nature of the mind, and can mental phenomena be explained purely in physical terms? What is moral goodness, and what is the nature of moral language?

What will I learn?

In year one we will examine:

- Epistemology: The study of knowledge
- Moral Philosophy: The study of ethical judgements

In year two we will examine:

- The Metaphysics of God: The study of the existence and nature of God
- The Metaphysics of Mind: The study of the nature of conscious experiences

How will I learn?

An A-Level Philosophy course emphasises deep thinking and understanding of new ideas. While there is material to learn, the focus is on truly grasping and applying these concepts through various methods. This includes listening to explanations, reading, engaging in discussions and debates, thinking independently to refine your understanding, and finally, writing about ideas to clarify and express your thoughts with precision, often leading to concrete conclusions.

Which awarding body is the course validated by?

AQA

What qualification will I receive?

A-Level qualification Philosophy

Entry requirements

GCSE English Language or English Literature at grade 6 and GCSE Maths at grade 5 or above

Course content

Paper 1 (Epistemology and Moral Philosophy) 50% 3 hrs

- Definitions of knowledge; knowledge from perception; knowledge from reason; the limits of knowledge. Ethical theories; metaethics; applied ethics.

Paper 2 (Metaphysics of God and Metaphysics of Mind) 50% 3 hrs

- The concept of God; arguments for the existence of God; religious language. Dualism; physicalism.

What can I do with the qualification?

Philosophy is a highly regarded A-Level, particularly valued by prestigious Russell Group universities. It serves as a solid foundation for pursuing degrees in subjects such as Law, Politics, International Relations, Psychology, Neuroscience, Journalism, English, or Philosophy itself.

