

# PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS and RELIGION



How have Philosophers tried to prove and disprove the existence of God?

Do miracles really happen?

Can a Christian God be presented in female terms?

Does 'good' mean the same for everyone?

Does the idea of the Sanctity of life have any meaning in 21st Century medical ethics?

## What does studying Philosophy, Ethics and Religion involve?

The primary aim is to develop an interest in and enthusiasm for a rigorous study of Philosophy, Ethics and Religion. Students will develop knowledge, understanding and skills and adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach appropriate to the specialist study of Philosophy, Ethics and Religion. There will be many opportunities to debate current moral issues whilst developing personal values, opinions and attitudes.

## Do I need to have done GCSE Philosophy and Ethics or Religious Studies?

This course is for *all* students, whether they have GCSE Philosophy and Ethics or not. The course does not assume or require any previous study of Philosophy and Ethics. Students should also have an open and enquiring mind. Philosophy, Ethics and Religion is an academic subject that is suitable for students of any or no faith background.

### Specification: OCR

Website: [www.ocr.org.uk](http://www.ocr.org.uk)

**Philosophy of Religion:** Ancient philosophical influences, the nature of soul, mind and body, arguments about the existence or non-existence of God, the nature and impact of religious experience, the challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil, ideas about the nature of God, issues in religious language.

**Religion and Ethics:** Normative ethical theories (Natural law, Situation ethics, Kantian ethics and Utilitarianism), the application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance (Euthanasia and Business ethics), ethical language and thought, debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience, sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs.

**Developments in Religious Thought (Christianity):** Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world, sources of religious wisdom and authority, practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition, significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought, key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

## How will I be assessed?

Philosophy The A level will be a two year course and there is no coursework. The final exams consist of three papers (each 2 hours). Philosophy, Ethics and Religion can be taken at AS and A level.

## What can I do with Philosophy, Ethics and Religion?

Philosophy, Ethics and Religion fosters transferrable skills that are beneficial to any university course or career path. The essential skills of debate, discussion, analytical writing and critical thinking are developed throughout the course. Philosophy, Ethics and Religion complements most option combinations: it matches well with all the arts based subjects or could act to broaden the choices of a student who is more science-oriented.