

Subject: Philosophy and Ethics – Edexcel

Subject Leader: Miss Powell

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The question we always get asked – What is it?!

Philosophy is **interdisciplinary**, which means it draws and develops its study from a variety of subjects – hence why philosophy is known as the '**root of all knowledge**'. If you want to blend psychology and sociology with science (*without the statistics*) law, literature then this is the course for you. The course will develop your skills to **critically analyse** logic, **justify** different perspectives, and develop you to become an **independent thinker**.

What does the Edexcel course look like?

- 1) **Philosophy** - This element of the course covers topics such as Arguments for the existence of God (Design, Cosmological, Ontological), the problem of evil and suffering, life after death and more!
- 2) **Religion and Ethics** –ethical theories such as situation ethics, utilitarianism, Natural Moral Law and looks at how they can be applied to various issues such as sexual, medical, and environmental ethics.
- 3) **Study of a Religion** – This topic allows us to explore one religion in depth and we break the mould by studying Judaism. An exciting and diverse religion that enables us to explore issues such as the importance of women, the issue of Zionism, the impact of the holocaust and using it as a lens to discover different approaches to philosophical and Ethical issues.

We love teaching this course because we feel that it provides students with the skills needed to be a young philosopher as well as supporting them into university and beyond. The Edexcel A level course topics offer variety and We thrive on ability to explore, debate and discuss current issues within our A level such as abortion laws, explore long standing questions like 'Does God exist?' And provide insight into UK and world issues that may affect the future such as Zionism. We have a vibrant and specialist staff in the Philosophy and Ethics Department at CNS, all of whom are committed to sharing knowledge, engaging in discussion and teaching an A level that you will enjoy.

Our students say....

"I like the way that the things we learn can apply to everyday life and see how views have changed"

"I love how wide the curriculum is - we study all sorts and get a taste of many strands of philosophy and I love debating and learning how to articulate my arguments"

"I have always been interested in the concepts of morals and how we make decisions so I knew this course would be perfect for me!"

CNS 6th Form



Recommended reading:

Religious studies – Philosophy of Religion by A.Forshaw and C.Tweed
Religious studies – Religion and Ethics by C.Tweed and A.Forshaw
Judaism today by D. Cohn-Sherbok
Ethics matters – P. Vardy
God Matters – P Vardy
The course also requires students to read pre-set articles which can be found here under "Anthology". There are 12 in total:

<https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/religious-studies-2016.coursematerials.html#filterQuery=category:Pearson-UK:Category%2FSpecification-and-sample-assessments>

If you love exploring topics in more depth we really recommend you read:

1) **The God Delusion** by R. Dawkins (Philosophy)

2) **Night** by E. Wiesel (Holocaust)

OR listen to podcasts about different scholars here

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qykl/episode/s/player>



What future pathways are open to me if I study Philosophy and Ethics? The Short answer is a lot! It is a facilitating subject and helps students in all manner of careers such as... **Military, finance, Marketing, Social worker, Solicitor, Teaching, Human Resources, Information Management/Science, business, IT Consultant, Journalist, Government, Advertising, Charities administrator, Higher Education Teaching & Research AND more!**