

# Philosophy

## GCSE

Course Leader: Mr Hempel  
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Examination Board: AQA  
Assessment: 100% external examination

### What does the course involve?

Students will be following the AQA GCSE 'Religious Studies A' specification (Route A)

This consists of two components:

Component 1 is the study of two religions' beliefs, practices and teachings. Students will study Christianity and Islam.

Component 2 is the thematic study of four religious, philosophical and ethical themes.

Students will take themes A-D:

#### **Theme A: Relationships and families:**

This topical, current affairs unit will involve students learning about different societal attitudes, nonreligious and religious views on sex, marriage, family, contraception, divorce and gender equality.

#### **Theme B: Religion and Life:**

In this unit students will reflect on the origins and values of the universe. They will explore a range of intriguing ultimate questions; spanning such philosophical areas as the origins of the universe and the question of our role in the world, to the environment around us and the question of the rights of animals. The second strand of this topic covers areas of medical ethics including euthanasia and abortion as well as the origins of the human race.

#### **Theme C: The Existence of God:**

This unit involves stimulating debate and analysis of a range of different philosophical arguments for and against the existence of God-including the argument from design, the argument from miracles and religious experiences as well as atheistic arguments such as the Problem of evil and suffering and scientific theories used to challenge the existence of God.

#### **Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict:**

This unit explores conflict in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Students will study the views of pacifism, various religious teachings on conflict, peace and justice; as well as the issues of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism and helping victims of warfare.

There are two 1 hour 45 minute examinations.

### Skills developed

GCSE Philosophy will see you develop your communication skills through extensive debating. The ability to listen, have empathy for others, express your opinions and consider the viewpoints of others will all be key skills as you learn more in this subject. This subject will also develop your skills as a critical and abstract thinker, your ability to write persuasively and with analytical detail.