

Philosophy and Ethics

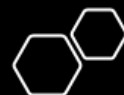
- We usually require a Level 5 in GCSE RS to take A Level. A minimum of a Level 4 in English is also necessary;
- The course does involve a lot of reading and writing... so if you don't enjoy this or don't find this easy, think carefully. Also, the lessons involve a lot of discussion and debate, so make sure that this is what you enjoy;
- We expect you to write essays regularly, up to once a week, alongside doing your own reading and research outside the classroom. It is a lot of work, but it is interesting, challenging, rewarding work;
- If you are genuinely interested in the subject, most people can do it!

What subjects
does
Philosophy and
Ethics combine
well with?



- English / Literature
- History / Ancient History
- Politics
- Geography
- Sociology
- Languages
- Art / Music / Drama
- Maths / Physics, Chemistry or Biology (for Medicine)
- Maths / Economics (for Economics, Business & Management, PPE)

**Successful
combinations are ...**



So, what
does the
course cover?

- We follow the OCR H573 specification, which is the most popular course nationally [plenty of textbooks, resources etc.]
- The course is split into 3 PAPERS, each examined at the end of Year 13 through a 2 hour exam.
- Each exam consists of 4 40 mark essay questions, of which you choose to write 3.
 - The essays are a lot like GCSE 12/15 markers, but longer and more detailed!
- There is NO COURSEWORK in RS and no complicated exam-technique... you just learn how to write a good essay, exactly as you will at university in most subjects.

Who Takes Philosophy and Ethics?



Philosophy is a vibrant and popular A Level course, with masses of books, websites, events, conferences and national essay-prizes running to support it.



c16,000 students a year in the UK... +50% on 2003. Similar numbers nationally to Politics and MFL... combined.

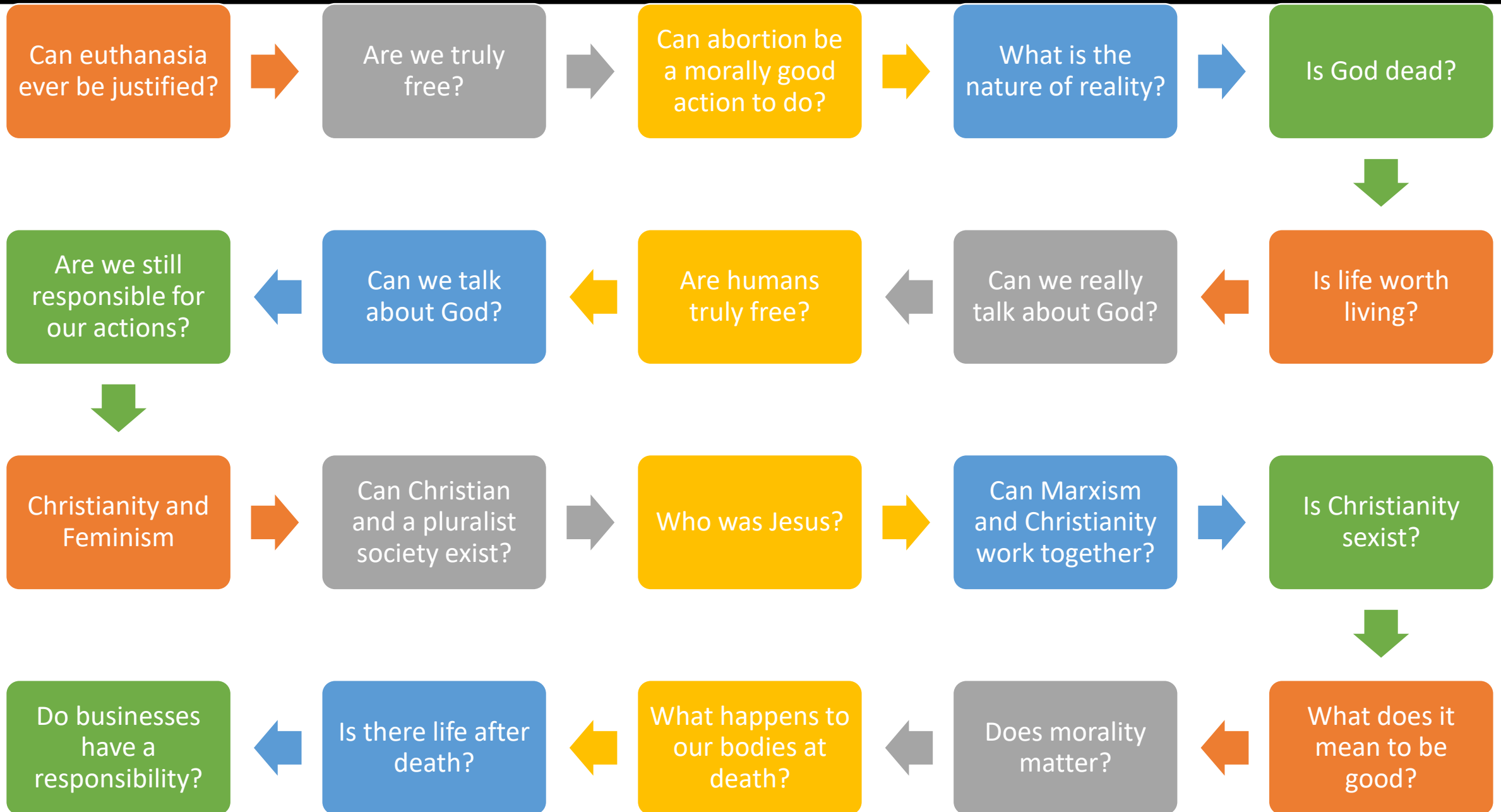


Students who are excited by ideas and who want to learn to think critically and analytically and write a persuasive argument.



Students thinking about studying Arts or Humanities at University... or Law, Medicine, Business.

Topics in Philosophy and Ethics



Why is Philosophy Valuable?

As little children, we first learnt to recognise letters, then words and in time these took on meaning in sentences.

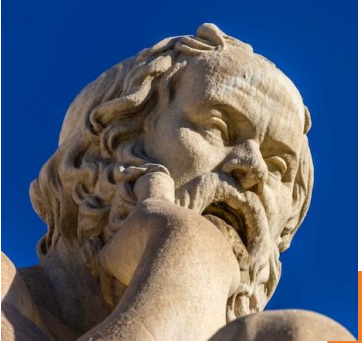
In our writing, we first shaped letters then words and finally entered the frightening world of joined-up writing.

The world of ideas is rather similar.

Philosophy attempts just such links.

We all have ideas, opinions, prejudices and assumptions, yet it is rare that we have linked all of our thinking together into a coherent scheme.

Overview of Topics for Y12



Philosophy

- Ancient philosophical influences
- Nature of the soul, mind and body, arguments about the existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experiences
- The problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issue surrounding religious language.



Ethics

- Normative ethical theories
- Application to contemporary issues
- Ethical thought and language
- Debates about conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on religious beliefs.



Theology

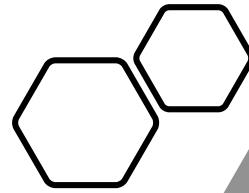
- Religious beliefs, values and teachings.
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Religious identity and how it varies within a tradition
- Significant social and historical developments in theology (gender roles and liberation theologies)
- Links between religion and society (secularization and multi faith dialogue)

GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) testing suggests that Philosophy and Ethics students have excellent **reading & writing skills, communication skills**, at least as good as those of English students. These skills are central to most careers.

- Philosophy students learn how to **critically analyse texts and arguments**, which is particularly vital in Law and business;
- Philosophy students learn to develop **persuasive written arguments...** which is useful in media, journalism and writing, sales, business, politics and of course Law.

Philosophy students learn to discuss the most difficult, personal, emotional issues in a sensitive way... this makes them **empathetic & sympathetic with great people-skills and cultural awareness**, which is important for jobs in management and for services like teaching, police and social work.

What do Philosophy and Ethics students do as a career...



Studying Philosophy at A Level (and University) is a great preparation for a wide range of careers.

Popular choices include Marketing, Sales & Management, Law, Media, Publishing, Police, Teaching and Social Work.

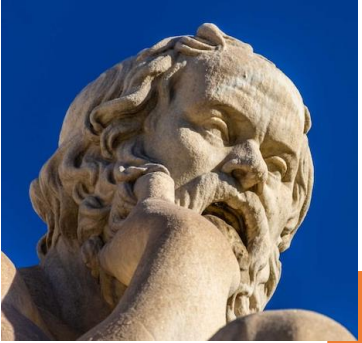
Philosophy gives you an ability to think critically and analytically, evaluating and developing persuasive arguments while also understanding how people think and a lot about how society and culture works.

Employers value Philosophy students' skills in analysis, evaluation, argumentation and persuasion as well as their people-skills and cultural literacy.



- One of the traditional, well-respected A Level subjects on a par with English Literature, History, Geography, Economics;
- Both Oxford and Cambridge University list Philosophy and Ethics amongst their preferred subjects;
- The Russell Group's document **Informed Choices** says,
*“There are some advanced subjects which provide suitable preparation for entry to university generally, but which we do not include within the **facilitating subjects** because there are relatively few degree programmes where an A Level in these subjects would be a requirement for entry. Examples of such subjects include Economics and **Philosophy...**”*

Assessment Overview



Philosophy

- 2 hour written paper
- (3 essays)
- 33% of total a level.



Ethics

- 2 hour written paper
- (3 essays)
- 33% of total a level.



Theology

- 2 hour written paper
- (3 essays)
- 33% of total a level.