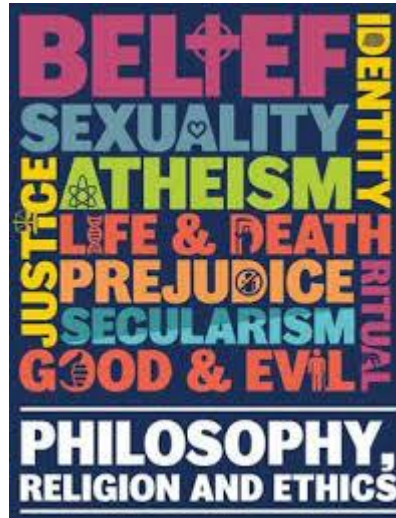


Introduction to Philosophy and Ethics



Eduqas -Religious Studies (Philosophy, Ethics, Buddhism)

Important details:

- Philosophy and Ethics involves the study of questions that humans have debated since the start of time. What does it mean to be a good person? Why is there suffering and evil in the world? Why was the world created?
- You will be studying the Eduqas Exam Board Specification. The specification can be found here https://www.eduqas.co.uk/qualifications/religious-studies-as-a-level/#tab_overview on the Eduqas website.
- This A Level is assessed entirely using exams. You will sit 3 two hour long exams in year 13. Examples of past exam papers can be found [here](#).

What topics will I be studying?

Buddhism:

- ❑ Religious Figures and Sacred texts
- Historical Buddha
- The Patimokkha and the Pali Canon
- Heart and Lotus Sutra
- Dalai Lama and Thich Nhat Hanh
- ❑ Religious Concepts and Religious Life
- The Three Lakshanas
- Pratityasamutpada
- Arhat and Bodhisattva
- The Four Noble Truths; The Eightfold Path; The Dasa Sila
- ❑ Social and Historical Developments
- Zen, Pureland, Tibetan Buddhism
- Challenges from science, secularisation, pluralism and diversity
- ❑ Religious practices that shape religious identity
- Religion, equality and discrimination.
- Heritage and covert Buddhists



Philosophy:

- ❑ **Arguments for the existence of God**
- Cosmological Argument
- Teleological Argument
- Ontological Argument
- ❑ **Challenges to religious belief**
- Augustinian type theodicy
- Irenaean type theodicy
- Sigmund Freud
- Carl Jung
- ❑ **Religious experience**
- Visions
- Conversion
- Mysticism
- Prayer
- Miracles
- ❑ **Religious Language**
- Logical Positivists view
- Non-cognitive and analogical; symbolic and mythical



What topics will I be studying?

Ethics:

- ❑ **Ethical Thought**
 - Divine Command and Virtue Theory
 - Ethical Egoism
 - Naturalism, Intuitionism, and Emotivism
- ❑ **Deontological Ethics**
 - Thomas Aquinas and Natural Law
 - John Finnis
 - Proportionalism
- ❑ **Teleological Arguments**
 - Joseph Fletcher- Situation Ethics
 - Act Utilitarianism
 - Rule Utilitarianism
- ❑ **Determinism and Free Will**
 - Predestination
 - Hard and Soft Determinism
 - Free Will- Pelagius and Arminius
 - Libertarianism



Structure of Teaching:

You will study Buddhism with Dr Jamison,
Ethics with Miss Gent and Philosophy with Mr
Payne

Your first topics:

Dr Jamison- The Historical Buddha then The
Patimokkha and Pali Canon

Miss Gent- Divine Command Theory and then
Virtue Theory

Mr Payne- Arguments for the existence of God



The future:

Philosophy and Ethics is seen as a facilitating subject by many universities as it provides excellent preparation for all university courses. You will develop your analytical and evaluative skills alongside essay writing, research and debating. You will be asked to argue from a particular point of view and present ideas on a range of ethical issues.

It is also seen as excellent preparation for a range of careers including medicine, health care, law, business management, journalism, education and social work.

