



# A-Level Religious Studies (Philosophy and Ethics)

In this subject you will consider abstract subjects and apply them to everyday life. Philosophy is about using rational argument and logical thinking to shine a light on life's big questions. In doing so, you'll get a greater understanding of the world we live in, and yourself.

Religion, Ethics and Philosophy has links to History, English Literature and Art, as well Politics, Sociology and Psychology.

Lessons involve lots of discussion and debate. These will help you gain a number of skills, including:

- How to think for yourself and question the norm
- How to examine information in a critical way
- How to form judgments based on clear evaluation of information
- How to put your point across clearly

Philosophy is primarily assessed through essays and you should be prepared for this. You will need to read texts independently and a love of the written word would be a major advantage for studying this subject.

**Philosophy Paper-** This paper focuses on the philosophical implications of faith. We'll study the arguments for and against God's existence, including the challenges from science and evil. We'll also consider the implications of free will and language on how humans interact with the world,

and what it means to actually 'know' anything.

**Ethics paper-** Ethics is primarily focused on how we decide what is right or wrong, and ethical theories such as Utilitarianism and those of Kant will be considered, as well as the potential implications of whether we have a conscience. There will also be some applied ethics, so issues around business ethics, euthanasia and sexuality will be considered.

**Theology paper-** This paper focuses on the role and development of the Christian faith and its impact on society. Topics include the life of Dietrich Bonhoeffer (a theologian and Nazi resister), death and the afterlife, gender and theology, secularism and pluralism and liberation theology.

## What can philosophy lead to?

Philosophy is a popular subject to study at university, and many of our students do choose to go on and study Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies. Philosophy will fine tune your reasoning, and this will be useful for a wide range of careers including Law, Politics, Civil Service, Journalism, Advertising and Education - to name but a few.

**Exam board: OCR**

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Lancaster Royal  
Grammar School

State Day and Boarding School for Boys Aged 11 to 18  
Coeducational Sixth Form



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