

A Level Philosophy & Ethics – Outline Programme of Study

Year 12

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Big ideas/ topics	An Introduction to Normative Ethical Systems. Natural Moral Law	Situation Ethics	Virtue Ethics	Christianity: Sources of Wisdom & Authority	Christianity: Good Conduct & Key Moral Principles	Consolidation and introduction to the Year 2 content. Meta-ethics
Key Knowledge	Deontological: natural moral law and the principle of double effect with reference to Aquinas; proportionalism. Assessing strengths & weakness. Application to theft & lying. Application to issues of human and animal life.	Teleological: situation ethics with reference to Fletcher. Assessing strengths & weakness. Application to theft & lying. Application to issues of human and animal life.	Character based: virtue ethics with reference to Aristotle. Assessing strengths & weakness. Application to theft & lying. Application to issues of human and animal life.	Different Christian beliefs about the nature and authority of the Bible, the Church, and Jesus.	Good conduct, the sanctity of life (strong and weak) and the Just War Theory. Relevant scripture for these three areas.	Divine Command Theory. Naturalism: Utilitarianism. Non-naturalism: Intuitionism. The strengths and weaknesses of these ideas.
Big ideas/ topics	Arguments for the existence of God	The Problem of Evil/Suffering	Religious Experiences	Christianity: God	Christianity: Expressions of Religious Identity	Consolidation and introduction to the Year 2 content. Religious Language
Key Knowledge	Investigating teleological, ontological and cosmological arguments for God and their challenges. Looking in depth at the strength and weaknesses of this.	Investigating the problem of evil in detail as well as developed theodicies refuting it. Looking in depth at the strength and weaknesses of this.	Investigating a variety of different types of religious experience and other explanations of these phenomena.	Investigating both the nature of the Christian God and the language used to describe God.	Looking at Christian practices, including; Baptism, Holy communion and the 'mission of the church' and expressions of each.	When yr 12 course is complete, then we begin looking at Religious Language (see year 13 term 1).



Year 13

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Big ideas/ topics	Conscience	Bentham and Kant	Free Will & Moral Responsibility	Christianity: Gender & Sexuality	Dialogues Linking Ethics with Christianity & reviewing content.	Exam Period
Key Knowledge	Differing ideas, religious and non-religious, about the nature of conscience. The role of conscience in making moral decisions and the value of conscience as a moral guide.	Comparison of the key ideas of Bentham and Kant about moral decision making. How far these two ethical theories are consistent with religious moral decision making.	The conditions of moral responsibility. The extent of moral responsibility. The relevance of moral responsibility to reward and punishment.	Historical and social factors that have influenced developments. Development of Biblical criticism and feminist theology.	Christianity and ethics: how developments in belief have influenced and been influenced by ethical studies	
Big ideas/ topics	Religious Language	Miracles	Self, Death and the Afterlife	Christianity & Science Christianity and the challenge of secularisation	Christianity: migration and religious pluralism Dialogues Linking Philosophy with Christianity & reviewing content.	Exam Period
Key Knowledge	Investigating different approaches to religious language including; verification/falsification principle and language games. Building up an understanding of the different strengths and weaknesses of the systems and the key philosophers involved.	Looking at the phenomena of miracles, whether they are spiritual or mental and some response to the question of validity. Investigating the concept of 'Realist' and 'Anti-realist' views of miracles.	Investigating different views on what is 'the self.' Understanding the mind matter split including Descartes philosophy of substance dualism, functionalism and materialism. Building up an understanding of the different strengths and weaknesses of the systems and the key philosophers involved.	Looking at the 3 main areas: 1)scientific progress and how Christianity responds to these.2) Looking at the relegation of Religion to the private sphere.3) The rise of Militant Atheism. Building up an understanding of the key philosophers involved in these concepts and criticisms of them.	Christianity and philosophy: how developments in belief have, over time, influenced and been influenced by philosophical studies of religion. Building up an understanding of the key concepts and philosophers within the topics of the syllabus.	



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Further information and reading list

- **AS Level:** <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-7061/specification-at-a-glance>
- **A Level:** <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-7062/specification-at-a-glance>
- Specific course books can be found at this link but can be purchased through other retailers at a lower price:
<https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/religious-education-philosophy?eb=71,103&l=149&se=1337,1003,1650>
- Students are provided with revision material, and additional reading, from ZigZag Education.

Ways to support and extend student learning in this subject

- Lesson PowerPoints and resources are uploaded to the departments Google Classroom (GC) page.
- Further reading will be given in class or uploaded to GC.
- <https://thepanpsycast.com/> Podcasts which cover various elements from across the course.
- Dialogues Journals are available from the department.
- A wide range of additional reading books are available in the classrooms.