

Philosophy and Ethics.

Making the Grade. Learn the pathway to academic success.

Subject Teachers: Mr Monis and Miss Perry (Curriculum Lead – Miss Perry)

Curriculum Area: Humanities

Key Dates:

- Year 9 internal exams.
- June 2023 GCSE examination.

Overview of Year 9:

- In Year 9, GCSE Philosophy and Ethics students will build foundational knowledge needed for the core GCSE content. The programme of study has been designed to enhance students' knowledge as well as exposing them to new concepts and themes.
- Students will start by studying the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR). This unit discusses issues such as: why the UDHR was created, education across the world, cultural difference and the difficulties these cultural differences can cause when following the UDHR, slavery, torture, refugees and child soldiers. Whilst some issues taught here are difficult to discuss, it is vital that students have an awareness of what happens across the world. Furthermore, as these topics are regularly featured in the worldwide media, they provide an engaging source of knowledge for discussions and teachings in the classroom.
- Students will then move on to a scheme of work focusing on Alternative Religions whereby students focus on the smaller denominations and sects within a faith and, within a secular society – making a judgement on if they can be deemed a religion. Students look into areas of Mormonism, The Amish Community, Scientology and Humanism, to name a few. This scheme of work is always well received by students.
- The following unit of study is an extended independent project whereby students focus on 3 main religions such as: Christianity, Buddhism and Islam with a focus of identifying and outlining key practices and beliefs alongside modern day realities of a follower of faith.
- Students will then move onto studying Medical Ethics. In this unit of work, students will explore: organ donation, IVF, saviour siblings, the struggling relationship between faith and medical science, the debate of when life begins and ends, abortion, conjoined twins and euthanasia. Once again, these issues are current and topical making for stimulating lessons. This unit of work lays important foundational knowledge for the core GCSE content when studying religion and life issues in Year 10.
- Following this, students will study a unit called 'The existence of God and Revelation'. Within this unit students cover content on: arguments for the existence of God, miracles, evil and suffering, can God exist if there is suffering in the world, types of truth and revelation. Not only is this key GCSE knowledge, but it is foundational knowledge for any student wishing to further study Philosophy and Ethics at A Level.

How can families contribute to success on this course?

- Ensure students attend all lessons - when students are absent, it is essential that they take the responsibility to see their teacher directly and catch up on any missed work.
- Families are encouraged to monitor homework as it is posted on Show My Homework and oversee the quality of homework completion, as well as reminding their child about upcoming deadlines.

- GCSE Philosophy and Ethics students must spend **at least 30 minutes per week** engaging in self testing and knowledge retrieval through; flashcards, knowledge organisers, mind maps, revision clocks, reading through notes, condensing their notes etc. **This is to be done independently and in addition to any homework set.**
- Encourage students to immerse themselves - look out for documentaries on abortion, human rights, crime, religion, euthanasia etc. Read and watch the news and follow this with discussions about these current events which link to the content above.
- Debate around the dinner table about some of the key issues mentioned above. Take time to engage in meaningful conversations.
- Engage with students in learning religious quotes, teachings and spellings of key words by setting short spelling tests. Spelling, punctuation and grammar is marked across the GCSE PY exam so pay attention to this too.

Resources for success:

- GCSE Religious Studies for AQA A: Christianity **ISBN-13:** 978-0198370338
- GCSE Religious Studies for AQA A: Islam **ISBN-13:** 978-0198370345
- AQA GCSE (9-1) Religious Studies Specification A **ISBN-13:** 978-1471866852
- AQA GCSE Religious Studies A: Christianity and Islam Revision Guide. **ISBN-13:** 978-0198422839
- <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/religious-studies/gcse/religious-studies-a-8062> - the specification website. On here you can find an in-depth version of the specification, past exam papers, key words lists and examiner reports/feedback

Specification Information:

- AQA
- GCSE Religious Studies A (8062)