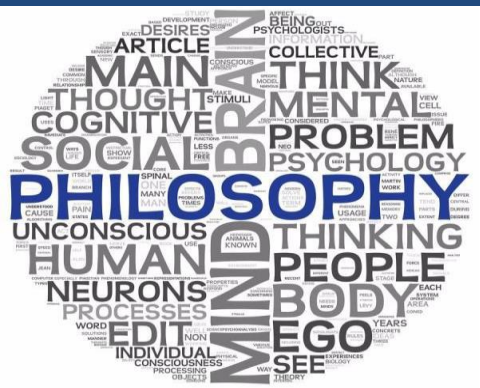
A Level Philosophy



Entry Criteria:

- You will need to achieve the pathway criteria, please see the prospectus for further information
- You will need to achieve a Grade 4 or above in GCSE English Language.

Coursework/Examination Requirements:

A Level Assessment Two written examinations both worth 50%

Awarding Body/Specifications: AQA

Advanced Level (A Level): Philosophy is the study of the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality and existence. Philosophy looks at sociological, psychological and religious responses to the big existential questions in life and how philosophers have attempted to respond to these questions. This is an appropriate choice if you are curious and want to explore the answers to the greatest questions in life; Why are we here? Are we free? Who are we? This is also a good choice for future Lawyers, Doctors and for careers in Public Services. **The following units will be followed on this course:**

Paper One

Unit 1 – Epistemology

What can we know? What is knowledge? What is the truth? Where do ideas and concepts come from? We will study the limits of knowledge and critique these concepts through reading Aristotle, Plato, Descartes, Locke and many other key Philosophers.

Unit 2 – Moral Philosophy

How do we decide what is morally right to do? Ethical theories and ethical language. The theories covered are Utilitarianism, Kantian ethics and Aristotelian virtue ethics. Issues studied include, stealing, simulated killing (in computer games and films for instance), eating animals and telling lies.

Paper Two

Unit 3 – Metaphysics of God

The concept of God - we will unpick the logic of what "God" is. Arguments relating to the existence of God will be debated, which include, the Ontological argument and the Teleological argument. We will investigate the problem of evil and deduce if God and evil are a logical combination. Religious language will interrogate the idea that when we speak of God or religion, are we speaking of anything at all.

Unit 4 – Metaphysics of Mind

What is mind? What is mind without body? The "Philosophical zombie argument". We will interrogate the metaphysical relationship the Mind/Brain has with the body, its identity and analyse behaviour. We will consider if you are your mind, and if that is so, who are you?

Advanced Subsidiary (AS): There is not an option to study this as an AS Level equivalent qualification as this is a two-year course.

Progression: The logical and critical thinking skills acquired in Philosophy lends itself to many diverse areas of Higher Education study and career paths such as Politics, Medicine, History, Philosophy, Law, Linguistics, Ethics, Classics, Anthropology, Psychology, English, Astronomy, Sociology, Accountancy and Mathematics.

Opportunities: There are conferences held in Norwich Cathedral, Cambridge and London, delivered by leading British Philosophers.