

PHILOSOPHY at AS/A2 LEVEL

EXAMINATION BOARD: AQA

This subject is not included in option blocks. It is offered only on demand and taught through the Oxbridge tutorial method. It is an intellectual subject and requires an extremely high standard of critical thought and independent learning.

WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY?

More than anything else Philosophy is the study and advancement of ideas and is suitable for anyone who is excited by the adventure of ideas, respectful of logical rigour and driven by a need to understand the perplexities of the human condition. A course of study based on this specification will enable students to gain a thorough grounding in key philosophical concepts, themes, texts and techniques. They will develop their abilities to analyse and assess philosophical writings and to reason, form their own judgements, express themselves coherently and to contribute to the process of debate. Philosophy will equip students with a set of transferable skills which can be applied successfully not only to Philosophy but also to other academic subjects and any written or verbal theories and arguments they encounter in their everyday lives. This specification recognises that students mature over a two year course of study and it is expected that as students advance they will become more deeply engaged with the subject matter.

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

No previous knowledge is assumed or required. **Candidates should be prepared to work very hard indeed and do so independently.**

SPECIFICATION

AS Unit 1 - An Introduction to Philosophy 1

50% of AS, 25% of A2 Written paper - 1 ½ hours, 90 marks

Candidates must answer the compulsory question on reason and experience and one other question.

AS Unit 2 - An Introduction to Philosophy 2

50% of AS, 25% of A2 Written paper - 1 ½ hours, 90 marks

Candidates must answer the two questions.

A2 Unit 3 - Key Themes in Philosophy

30% of A2 Written paper, 2 hours, 100 marks

Candidates must answer two questions from two different sections (i.e. on two themes)

A2 Unit 4 - Philosophical Problems

20% of A2 Written paper, 1 ½ hours, 60 marks

Candidates must choose one section and answer the compulsory questions and one essay question.

HIGHER EDUCATION AND CAREER CHOICES

The study of Philosophy is relevant to all other subject disciplines but is especially important for the Natural and Social Sciences, History, Law and Literature.

Because of its universal application Philosophy is relevant to all careers but is especially relevant to the 'thinking professions' (Law, Teaching/Lecturing, Scientific Research, Politics).

FURTHER INFORMATION

Students or parents requiring any further details are most welcome to contact Mr N Lambkin, Head of Philosophy and Logic.