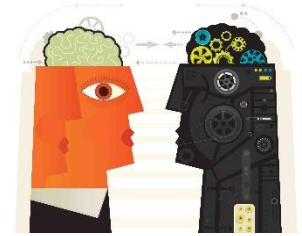




PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS (AQA)



Philosophy is an exciting and thought-provoking new subject at The Bourne Academy, which challenges students' thinking and develops their analytical skills. As part of the course, students will study everything from whether murder can ever be morally justified to how we can prove that we are not all living in a computer programme! It is a highly respected A Level course by universities and employers alike, and those who study Philosophy enter professions as wide-ranging as politics, business, law and journalism. If you are the sort of individual who likes to challenge the conventional way people think and you want to develop your analytical and arguing skills, Philosophy is the ideal subject to study.

A Level Philosophy is a two-year linear course. After two years, you will be awarded the A Level.

What will you learn? A Level Philosophy (AQA) consists of four key topic areas:

Epistemology: the study of knowledge:

- What is knowledge?
- Perception as a source of knowledge
- Reason as a source of knowledge
- The limits of knowledge

Metaphysics of God: the study relating to arguments for/against the existence of God:

- Ontological arguments
- Teleological/design arguments
- Cosmological arguments
- The Problem of Evil
- Religious language

Moral Philosophy: the study of right and wrong:

- Utilitarianism
- Kantian deontological ethics
- Aristotelian virtue ethics
- Applied ethics
- Meta-ethics

Metaphysics of Mind: the study of what the mind is and its distinction from the body:

- What do we mean by 'mind'?
- Dualist theories
- Physicalist theories
- Functionalism

How you will be assessed? A Level Philosophy is 100% examination with two three-hour exams at the end of the 2nd year.

Where will it take you? An A Level in Philosophy is highly sought after by top universities and can be an excellent addition to other A Levels you may be studying: the content of Philosophy relates both to science and arts/humanities subjects alike and so is an appropriate course for both students looking to study a Science subject at university or an Arts subject. Philosophy graduates are some of the highest-paid graduates on average after leaving university, and as a subject which covers multiple disciplines can naturally lead to a variety of career paths, including politics, business, education, journalism, law, social care, public sector work and indeed even further study.

Who to talk to? Please speak to Mr Ethan Roberts, e-mail: ethan.roberts@thebourneacademy.com

What will you need to study this course? Students will need to have five or more grade 9-4 GCSEs, including a minimum of a grade 5 in English Language or Literature. A Level Philosophy is a demanding academic course, requiring strong analytical and reasoning skills, a strong essay-writing ability and the will to read heavily around the subject.