

## POST 16 SUBJECT OVERVIEW

**Name of subject:** A Level Philosophy

**Which Examination Specification is Studied for this Course?** AQA

**Why should I study this course?**

Philosophy is a sought after A Level which is viewed favourably by universities. Philosophy, Politics and Economics is fast becoming one of the most popular UK degree courses. Philosophy can make a significant contribution to any job that requires you to think clearly.

If you have ever wondered where the world started or what the meaning of life is, then you have already been thinking philosophically. Studying Philosophy helps you gain a thorough grounding in key concepts, themes, texts and techniques, enabling you to develop the ability to reason, form your own judgements, express yourself coherently and contribute to the process of debate.

You will discuss if our ideas about right and wrong are simply emotional responses to the world or if there are any moral facts we can discover. We consider if we are simply biological machines or if there is something mysterious about consciousness that we will never be able to explain.

You will be asked questions about the nature of morality; what makes an action morally good or bad, right or wrong and how can we know this?

**Who is suitable to study this course?** Students that have achieved Grade 5 or above in English

**Subject Overview:** You will consider the nature of the mind; is it an entirely different 'thing' from the body? What kind of 'thing' is it? Is it a physical thing or a non-physical thing? What kind of problem stems from believing it to be one or the other?

You will question the nature of knowledge; what does it mean exactly to know? You will then apply these questions to the field of religion; what can we know about the nature of God and whether or not God exists.

You will look at the development and use of Artificial Intelligence and begin to question and evaluate whether we are free beings. You will explore the idea of if AI will ever surpass human knowledge and if it does then how will that impact on the human race and will we ultimately succumb to the power of Artificial Intelligence that we have created.

**Subject Content**

1. Epistemology
2. Moral Philosophy
3. Metaphysics of God
4. Metaphysics of Mind

**How is the Course Assessed?** Two 3 hour exams at the end of year 13

