

AS COURSE CONTENT

We study the AQA syllabus and there are two exams at the end of the year. You study two units at AS and must answer four essay questions in the final exams, two in each exam.

Each unit is worth 50% of the AS.
The AS is worth 50% of the A level.

Unit 1:

- **Reason and Experience**

What is knowledge and how do we come to know things?

- **Why Should I Be Governed**

How do we as free individuals come to be obligated to obey the state and the laws it creates?

Unit 2:

- **Tolerance**

What is tolerance? Why should we aspire to be tolerant individuals? What are the strengths of a tolerant society?

- **God and the World**

Can we prove God's existence from evidence within the universe? Is evil compatible with the existence of God? Is religious belief rational or delusional?

There may be opportunity to study additional topics including the Value of Art and Why Should I Be Moral?

A2 and beyond . . .

Most students continue with the subject to A2 where they study:

- Political Philosophy
- J.S. Mill's 'On Liberty.'
- Moral Philosophy or Philosophy of Religion.

Students have gone on to study a range of subjects in Higher Education, many at top universities. Philosophy is a well respected degree which makes you extremely attractive to employers and graduate training schemes due to the excellent skills you will possess.

Famous Philosophy Students and Graduates:

Leo Tolstoy, Fyodor Dostoyevsky, Martin Luther King Jnr, Woody Allen, Jay Leno, Harrison Ford, Bill Clinton, Susan Sarandon, Pope John Paull II, Ricky Gervais, Matt Groening, Desmond Tutu.

What do we expect of you?

As a department we expect the highest standards of behaviour and commitment from our students. Our aim is to help you achieve your academic goals and enjoy your studies. In order for this to happen we expect the following from you:

- To take responsibility for your own learning and complete all work set
- To develop a variety of learning skills
- To participate fully in classes
- To read extensively around the subject

What do you need?

Most importantly you must have a good work ethic and be prepared to be challenged. Philosophy is a difficult A-Level but it is very popular because students enjoy the subject matter and the commitment it demands.

If you enjoy asking big questions then this subject is for you. Be prepared for plenty of homework reading and assignments are essay based.

You must also be ready to discuss - and to listen to others.

What use is Philosophy?

Philosophy does more than overlap with other subjects, it provides you with the critical and analytical skills to confidently assess and discuss any topic in a rational and articulate manner. Philosophy should therefore improve you as a thinker and benefit your study of other A-Levels.

Being able to carefully assess theories and handle abstract concepts are vital academic skills which will hopefully make you a more confident learner.



Teaching Staff:

Andrew Bailey Head of Department
David O'Neill Head of Religious Studies
Diane Spencer
Richard Purslow

Results and success rates:

AS Level 07/08

Achievement rate (No. of passes):
86% - 5% above national benchmark.

29% of students achieved a high grade pass (A or B).

A2 07/08

Achievement rate:
100% - 3% above national benchmark.

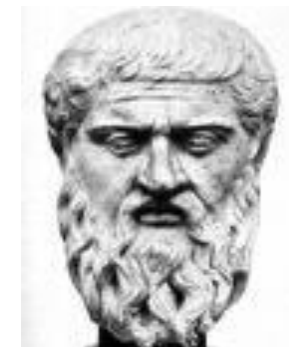
54% of students achieved a high grade pass (A or B).

Our results are improving year on year as are our student numbers and retention rates between AS and A2.

Class sizes at AS and A2 are between 15 and 20.



PHILOSOPHY



"Science is what you know. Philosophy is what you don't know." Bertrand Russell

"There will be no end to the troubles of states, or of humanity itself, till philosophers become kings in this world, or till those we now call kings and rulers really and truly become philosophers, and political power and philosophy thus come into the same hands."
Plato

"Astonishment is the root of philosophy." Paul Tillich