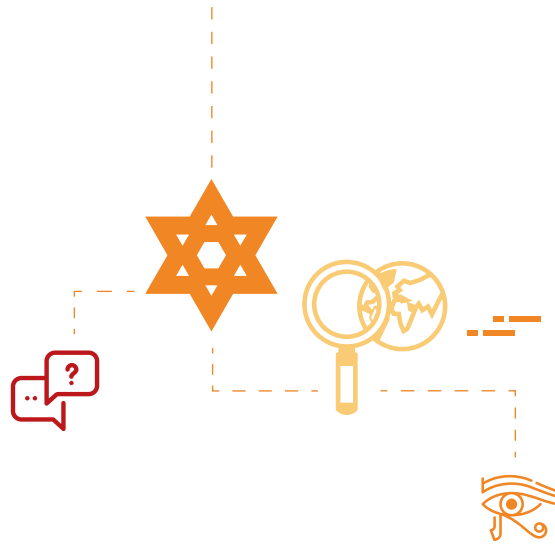


PHILOSOPHY

Exam Board AQA



What will the course involve?

Students of Philosophy contemplate, discuss and write about fundamental questions concerning the nature of existence; how to lead the good life; the relationship between mind and body; the origins of the world; and the source and extent of knowledge. Since the birth of the subject in Ancient Greece, philosophers have tackled such questions through careful, critical, creative and rigorous thinking – with the goal of achieving, if not truth, then greater understanding. Philosophy is a demanding subject, which suits academically-minded students. In order to succeed, you will need to be committed to developing your ability to reason, critically discuss, analyse and write about philosophical arguments.

The first year of the Philosophy course offers the opportunity to study two key branches of philosophy – Epistemology (theory of knowledge) and Metaphysics of God. In Epistemology, we consider the relationship between our sensory experience and the world itself. Do we access the world directly through the senses or do we experience only a representation of the world? We also consider what the definition of knowledge is and where the origin of knowledge lies – do we gain knowledge mainly through experience or through reasoning? In Metaphysics of God, we consider philosophical arguments which have been made in an attempt to prove the existence of God; the status of religious language; and how the concept of God can be understood.

In the second year of the course, students move on to study two more key areas of philosophy – Moral Philosophy and Metaphysics of Mind. Philosophy is concerned with issues regarding how we should make moral decisions and the nature of moral concepts. Metaphysics of Mind focuses on the relationship between the mental and the physical.

How will I be assessed?

Regular assessments are set throughout the course, typically tying in with the form of assessment found in the exams at the end of the second year. Each of these exams is devised to test knowledge, understanding and skills of analysis and evaluation. Essay responses form a substantial part of the assessment with focus on clarity and precision.

What can I do with this subject?

Philosophy boasts a wide range of 'transferable skills', which are greatly sought after from employers within many fields. The ability to think clearly and effectively in understanding an issue, and carefully gauge what response is needed is one example of an invaluable quality, whether you are a politician, health worker, teacher, accountant, or barrister.

What else can I do?

Students can take advantage of extra-curricular activities in the department. A Royal Institute of Philosophy course, covering the classic works of Philosophy is run for those who are looking to give breadth and depth to their studies, and a more general, student-lead philosophy club will run, featuring discussions, films, and guest speakers. Annual trips to university departments can be expected, along with residential trips to London and Gladstone's Library.

What are the entry requirements for this course?

You will need a **grade 6 in GCSE English Language** plus a **grade 5 in GCSE Mathematics** (or vice versa) for you to be able to cope with the language and analytical demands of the course.



OUR STUDENTS SAY ...

Carmel is a friendly environment where I am able to express myself and feel comfortable doing so, and I feel the same in my Philosophy class.

The lessons are fun and enjoyable and the course not only teaches you the things you need for your exams, but also life skills like debating and listening to others. In Philosophy everyone has become friends which makes learning easier and positive. Carmel is a college where everyone is accepted, no matter who they are or where they're from and I have no regrets about enrolling here. As a top college in the country, it will be beneficial when applying for university or jobs and the overall experience you gain is worth every second of hard work.

Anna Edwards

Studying: Philosophy, English Literature, Law



Meet the Tutors

Glenn Skelhorn
Head of Department

Hannah Moss
Subject Tutor



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