

Philosophy, Religion & Ethics

Advanced Level

General Information

In Philosophy, Religion and Ethics we ask BIG questions, such as:

- To what extent does our morality depend on religion?
- Is war ever justified?
- Are abortion and euthanasia ever right?
- Can we know whether God exists or not? Do we have free will?

Studying Philosophy, Religion and Ethics at Advanced Level is both challenging and exciting. Over three separate units you will examine the nature and concept of God, comparing and contrasting it with similar philosophical concepts promoted in Ancient Greece. You will assess arguments for God's existence and see how science and culture challenges and influences religion. You will also study religious beliefs about God, morality, the afterlife and purpose of life, and the place of religion in modern society. Alongside these topics you will study ethical theories and philosophical approaches to solving moral dilemmas. You'll be invited to challenge your own ideas about religion and morality and you'll also be expected to be open to the views of others and to write your responses in a clear and coherent way.

In the second year, you go deeper into Philosophy, Religion and Moral Philosophy as we discuss and debate some of the most puzzling issues that human beings have struggled to resolve concerning how we should live and how we should treat each other. If you enjoy reading, debating and writing about important matters, we promise you'll find Philosophy, Religion and Ethics fascinating.

Philosophical thinking is highly regarded by universities and is accepted for entry onto degree courses in Philosophy and many other subjects. Universities and employers alike value the analytical skills developed through studying this discipline.



Entry requirements

You need to meet the general College entry requirement for Advanced Level study (please refer to the current Prospectus - advanced programmes, entry requirements). However, students also need to have at least a grade 5 in GCSE English.

In this subject, particular skills and aptitudes will be required, many of which will be demonstrated by students' GCSE profiles.

Entry requirements might be changed in light of curriculum reform.




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Assessment overview:

This specification has a simple, clear assessment structure which consists of two written examinations.

Component 1	Philosophy of Religion & Ethics <i>Four compulsory two-part questions</i>
Component 2	Study of Religion <i>Two compulsory two-part questions</i>
Component 3	Dialogues between Philosophy and Religion <i>Answer two essay questions from a choice of four</i>

	Marks	Duration	Weighting
	100	3 hour	50%
	50	1.5 hour	25%
	50	1.5 hour	25%

How it is taught

We use a variety of teaching methods, and expect you to get involved; you will be expected to participate in discussion and problem solving activities, as well as read, take notes and write essays. All the units are assessed by exams.

Useful / common subject combinations

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics combines well with any other subject, and you will be successful and enjoy the course whether you are taking predominantly arts, social science or natural science subjects. It goes especially well with other humanities subjects such as Politics, History, Law, Sociology and Psychology and also combines well with English Language and Literature.

Careers / HE information

Philosophers from QE have gone on to a wide range of careers, including journalism, medicine, teaching, advertising and working in the health service. Universities accept Philosophy, Ethics & Religious students to do combined courses such as Philosophy with Politics, Psychology or Physics.

Other relevant information

It is not necessary to have studied Philosophy, Ethics or Religious Studies before but an interest in abstract ideas is essential. If you want more insight into what Philosophy is about, try to get hold of 'Sophie's World' by Jostein Gaarders; a philosophical novel, which takes you through a history of Philosophy, while solving a mystery.