

# OPTIONS COURSE

## PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS (GCSE)

ACCREDITING AUTHORITY | AQA

### QUALIFICATION

GCSE in Religious Studies

### FACULTY

**HUMANITIES**

### STAFF CONTACT

Mrs S. Lindley, Mr N. Flynn

### WHAT QUALITIES & SKILLS DO I NEED?

All you need is an interest in current affairs and the ability to see both sides of an argument. You will be required to think creatively and critically, and to develop your discussion skills. You should have an interest discovering the part religion plays in people's lives and its role in making decisions about morality and ethics. You **do not** need to be religious but you must be interested in studying religious beliefs.

### COURSE FOLLOWED

[EP – AQA Religious Studies A \(8062\)](#)

### HOW IS THE COURSE ORGANISED AND ASSESSED

#### **The study of religions: beliefs, teachings and practices**

Core Beliefs of Christianity

Practices, Special Days and Pilgrimage in Christianity

Core Beliefs of Judaism

Practices, Special Days and Pilgrimage in Judaism

#### **Thematic studies**

Theme A: Relationships and Family

Theme B: Religion and Life

Theme D: Religion, Peace and Conflict

Theme E: Religion, Crime and Punishment

There are two exams at the end of year 11; each worth 50% of the final mark. There is no coursework so there is a real need to revise and retain knowledge.



# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

## **CAN I CHOOSE TO TAKE JUST PHILOSOPHY OR ETHICS?**

No, you have to do the full courses of Philosophy & Ethics to get a full GCSE. Studies

## **HOW MANY EXAMS ARE THERE?**

You will sit 2 x 1 hr 45 min exam in Year 11, one for Christianity and Judaism and one for Ethics.

## **IS IT FOR ALL ABILITIES?**

It's one level of exam that's graded between 9-1, everyone takes the same exam so you have the opportunity to aspire to and achieve higher grades.

## **WHAT SKILLS WILL I GET IF I TAKE THIS GCSE?**

You will learn how to debate an issue in a balanced way, looking at different points of view. It will teach you to write in a clear way. It will give you an understanding of modern moral issues such as genetic engineering and the death penalty. Essay-writing is a key skill and so written pieces will often be given as homework, but reading and researching are also key skills. The workload is not on the scale of a coursework-heavy subject like History or English, but you will need to spend a fair amount of time grappling with some deep concepts, depending on how easy you pick them up.

## **WILL I GET TO DISCUSS MY OPINIONS OR JUST LEARN ABOUT OTHERS?**

An essential part of the course is that you give your own opinions and there will be lots of discussions.

## **WILL IT HELP ME GET A JOB?**

Well it may not seem to be directly linked to a particular job but the skills you'll get will be useful to employers. You'll be able to say you can express your ideas clearly, evaluate different opinions and have an understanding of modern moral issues in areas such as cloning and the environment. It will also improve your writing skills. The skills developed at GCSE are valued by all Universities and many employers and can lead to careers in Business, Law, Journalism, Police, Civil Service, Teaching and many others.

