

A level Philosophy

What board do we do? AQA, OCR, Edexcel

What is Philosophy?

Philosophy is about fundamental concepts including knowledge and truth; the mental and the physical; personal identity; free will and determinism; self-interest, values and morality; the relations between individuals and society; human rights and justice; the value of art; the existence of God and the problem of evil.

The study of philosophy combines reading the works of great philosophers, identifying the issues and arguments involved, and arriving at reasoned conclusions. Students will gain knowledge of important philosophical issues, and acquire key skills to interpret and assess arguments and counter-arguments, to develop their own ideas and to construct persuasive arguments.

What careers and University courses can Philosophy lead to?

Philosophy is a good choice for ambitious students seeking careers with international organisations, the Civil Service, law firms and accountancy/consulting firms, and leading businesses especially in information technology and environmental sectors. The key skills of understanding ideas and arguments, clear and critical thinking and writing, and making rational decisions, are highly valued at senior management levels.

Over-subscribed universities also value Philosophy qualifications: a demonstrated capacity for independent thought and research is especially attractive to admissions tutors. Philosophy is directly relevant for degrees offering combined qualifications such as Philosophy Politics and Economics, and degrees with philosophy modules (e.g. Law, Geography, Psychology) for which previous study would be an advantage.