

A LEVEL PHILOSOPHY

THE PROBLEM OF SKEPTICISM



Achieving Excellence Together

AQA A Level Philosophy (7171)

Entry Requirements: Grade 5 in English at GCSE Level.

Course Description

Philosophy at A Level provides the following opportunities for students to:

- Develop a range of transferable skills which can be applied far beyond the study of Philosophy
- Gain a thorough grounding in key philosophical concepts, themes, texts and techniques
- Develop the ability to reason, form their own judgements, express ideas coherently and contribute to the process of debate
- consider philosophical problems through the study of a key text.

Method(s) of Assessment

Students will be assessed over two years in four units. Units 1 and 2 are assessed by 180 minute examinations at end of the first year of study. Units 3 and 4 are also assessed in a 180 minute examination at the end of the second year. Units 1 and 2 equate to 50% of the final grade, Units 3 and 4 make up the remaining 50%.

Methods of Assessment Continued

Unit 1 Epistemology—Perception and Direct Realism. Indirect Realism & Idealism. The Tripartite Theory of Knowledge. Concept & Knowledge Empiricism.

Unit 2 The Philosophy of Religion—The concept of God. Arguments to challenge and support the existence of God. The problem of suffering. Wittgenstein's Language Game.

Unit 3 Ethics—Utilitarianism & Kantian deontology. Aristotelian Virtue Ethics. Cognitivism and Non-cognitivism.

Unit 4 The Philosophy of the Mind Cartesian & Property Dualism. Behaviourism and Functionalism. Mind-brain identity type theories. Eliminative materialism. Philosophical zombies.

Progression

Philosophy is a study that is worth studying in and of itself, it will make your mind work logically and rationally and give immense confidence in the way that you assess and analyse problems. It is also an excellent subject for careers in Law, Media, Journalism, Politics, Civil Service and the Arts. There are no subjects which do not benefit from having Philosophy studied alongside them. At whatever level you might chose to study Philosophy, it will greatly enhance your ability to think and rationalize.

