



# PHILOSOPHY A-LEVEL

## WHY SHOULD I STUDY PHILOSOPHY A-LEVEL?

"The man who has no tincture of philosophy goes through life imprisoned in the prejudices derived from common sense, from the habitual beliefs of his age or his nation, and from convictions which have grown up in his mind without the co-operation or consent of his deliberate reason."

Bertrand Russell, The Problems of Philosophy

In an age where we are besieged on all sides by a tumult of conflicting opinions that are magnified and distorted by the echo chambers of social media, the critical capacities that the study of philosophy develops are arguably more essential than ever. Delving into fundamental questions such as "what is good?", "how do we have knowledge?", "what is the mind?" etc., develops the ability to reason with clarity, allowing you to gain insights into your own thoughts and how the world around you operates. Not only will these skills help you to live a happy and fulfilled life, but they will also more immediately directly complement your other A Level subjects.

## WHAT WILL I LEARN ABOUT?

Your philosophical journey will focus on four key areas of philosophy. We begin with epistemology, the study of knowledge, where we ask questions regarding what we know, how we know it and the limits of knowledge. We then move on to the study of ethics, where we consider how we can distinguish right from wrong action and the concept of goodness. In the second year your study will continue with a study of the metaphysics of the mind, delving into the nature of, and relations between, mind and body. Alongside this study you will also explore the metaphysics of God, exploring the existence of God, and the nature of divinity.

## HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

At the end of the second year of the course you will sit two 3-hour examinations, assessing your ability to recall and evaluate the arguments and ideas covered throughout the four topics.

## WHAT SKILLS WILL I DEVELOP?

By studying philosophy, students develop cognitive transferable skills such as logical reasoning, analysis, abstract conceptualization, problem-solving, creative thinking and mental dexterity. These capacities will develop the ability to articulate clear, persuasive arguments in both a written and oral form, thus preparing you to meet the challenges of university life.

## WHERE COULD THIS SUBJECT TAKE ME IN THE FUTURE?

The transferable skills outlined above mean that philosophy is uniquely placed amongst the humanities to leave open a wide array of possible career paths, however, law, education, marketing, banking, government service and public policy are some of the areas that are typically pursued by those with degrees in philosophy.

