

Course:	Philosophy and Ethics (RS)
Specification and code:	H173 (AS) H573 (A-level)
Exam Board website:	https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/
Course outline:	<p>You will be studying Philosophy at Beaminster and Ethics at Colfox. We split the teaching of the unit 'Developments of Religious Thought – Christianity'</p> <p>Philosophy outline: Here you will study ancient philosophical influences. The nature of the soul, mind and body. Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God and the nature and impact of religious experience as well as the challenge to religious belief of the problem of evil. The use of language and impact of language will also play a part.</p> <p>Ethics outline:</p> <p>You will be exploring the key concepts and the works of influential thinkers. You will study different ethics theories such as Utilitarianism, Kantian Ethics, Natural Moral Law and Situation Ethics. You will then be applying these theories to euthanasia and business ethics.</p> <p>Development outline:</p> <p>You certainly won't be told what to think but you will begin to see how religious ideas have developed over the last 2000 years and why believers hold some of the views they do today. For example, is human nature intrinsically good or bad and what impact do these views have on us?</p>
Reading:	<p>Ethics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any OCR approved Philosophy and Ethics textbook. • Being Human – Peter Vardy • The Puzzle of Ethics – Peter Vardy <p>Philosophy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Puzzle of God – Peter Vardy • Any OCR approved Philosophy and Ethics text book. • A Thinker's Guide to God - Vardy
Summer Task:	<p>For Ethics</p> <p>Making moral decisions is something every human being does throughout life. For some, ethics (moral principles) is logical, rational thinking, for others it is about obedience to a higher authority. What do you think? Do you believe ethics come from beliefs (religious or psychological ones) human psychology or something else? Do you think ethics really exist? Write an essay on where you think our morality comes from.</p> <p>Then, research and make notes on the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Who was Immanuel Kant? 2. What is Utilitarianism? 3. Who was William Temple? 4. Who was Joseph Fletcher? 5. Research some ethical and unethical businesses and write about why they are so. 6. Find out what different views there are on euthanasia. 7. Research the law on homosexuality in UK and around the world. <p>Watch these films (I refer to them in my lessons)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Imitation Game • Hunger Games • The Darkest Hour <p>For Development of Christian Thought:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Research what 'feminism' means and find some people who are feminists. 2. Find out what Christianity thinks the role of a woman is. 3. What is meant by Liberation Theology? 4. Who was Augustine and what does he think about the nature of humans? 5. What is meant by secularism? <p>Have a listen to debates (youtube or podcasts) featuring Richard Dawkins and consider the merits of his views on religion.</p> <p>For Philosophy</p>

This part of the course will really ask you to get to grips with ideas such as 'What is reality?' and 'Is there such a thing as truth?'

One of the first things we consider is Plato's cave and the nature of reality.

Have a look at the following YouTube clip <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IV-8YsyghbU>

You should have seen, from the film, that reality isn't as easy to define as you may have first thought. Now apply these ideas to the world around you. 'Fake News' is a modern phrase but as you consider it, you may see links back to Plato's Analogy of the Cave all those years ago.

So... Your task is to watch the clip (and perhaps do a little more research on Plato's Cave). Then I'd like you to come up with a side of A4 writing (a mini essay) in which you explain the story of the cave and show how it links to the world around us today – so give examples of things that are presented as reality, but may not be.

To round it all off there are loads of great films that deal with this – but I suggest watching 'The Matrix' (the first one) and also the film mentioned in the YouTube clip – 'Inception'.