

## THEOLOGY, PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS (OCR: A-Level H573)

Is it ever right to initiate a war? Who decides when someone should die? Why would a loving God allow people to suffer? Do modern scientific discoveries end, once and for all, the debate about the existence of God? Theology, Philosophy and Ethics at A-Level gives you the chance to consider these important existential questions. You will have the opportunity to develop key thinking, researching and analysing skills that will serve you for the rest of your life. Philosophy and Ethics provides a useful background for careers in law, politics, medicine, journalism, social services, scientific research, teaching, police and probation services.

The **Philosophy** side of the course addresses the following issues:

- Do we have a soul?
- Is there life after death?
- Can we prove that God exists?
- Can the problem of evil be explained?
- How should we understand religious claims about miracles?
- How does science challenge ideas about God and Creation?

Over the two years, **Ethics** considers these questions and more:

- How do we decide what is right or wrong?
- Where does your conscience come from?
- To what extent is our behaviour conditioned by the society in which we are brought up?

In **Moral Philosophy** students will study a number of different ethical theories (for example Natural Law, Utilitarianism and Kant's Categorical Imperative) and research what the theories have to say about particular ethical dilemmas including:

- Should people be allowed to die with dignity?
- Whether or not human beings flourish in the context of capitalism and consumerism.
- Whether conscience exists at all.
- Attitudes towards sex and relationships.
- What is meant by the word good?

There will also be a **Theology** component which will address some of the following issues:

- Whether or not there is a distinctive human nature.
- Whether or not faith is sufficient reason for belief in God's existence.
- Whether or not the Christian God can be presented in female terms.

Essay writing is crucial and these skills will be developed over the two year course. Students will be expected to read widely and keep up with current affairs. The kind of issues considered in this subject will stretch your mind and teach you skills that are transferable to a wide variety of courses in Higher Education and the professions.



### WHERE NEXT?

**Tabitha Sherwood**

Linguistics at the University of Cambridge

Studied Religious Studies (now Theology, Philosophy and Ethics), Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Further Mathematics