

PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND BUDDHISM – A Level



“Are we human beings having a spiritual experience, or spiritual beings having a human experience?” *Pierre Teilhard de Chardin*

Overview

Two year A level course studying Philosophy of Religion (Philosophy = the study of ideas) and Ethics (beliefs about right and wrong) and the study of one religion (Buddhism).

Tackle some of life’s most interesting “Big Questions”:

- Is God real, and how can we tell? What might God be like?
- Are the soul and the afterlife real? What about miracles?
- How can we be sure what right and wrong are? And what does it mean to be a good person?
- Do we have a responsibility to care for the environment?
- Is War ever justified?
- What makes a relationship ethical?

Year 12

Philosophy: The design argument, The cosmological argument, Ontological argument, The problem of evil and religious experience.

Ethics: Situation ethics, Utilitarianism, Natural law, Equality, Environmental ethics, Sexual ethics and peace and conflict.

Buddhism: The Teachings of the Buddha including the 4 noble truths, 8 fold path, three poisons, 5 aggregates, 3 marks of existence and the life of the Buddha himself.

Year 13

Philosophy: Philosophy of language, Life after death, the soul and science and religion.

Ethics: Ethical language, Deontology and medical ethics

Buddhism: Types of Buddhism, Meditation, Gender and Buddhism and contemporary Buddhism.

Assessment method

At the end of Year 12 you will sit end of year exams, these will not count towards your final results.

There are three final written examinations at the end of Year 13.

Additional information

In addition to homework you will also be expected to carry out a minimum of 5 hours independent study per fortnight in each subject studied. During these study periods you will work on written essays, read around the subject, and work on activities booklets.

You will need a copy of Edexcel’s ‘AS Religious Studies’ by Tyler and Reid (ISBN:9781846903342) and ‘A2 Religious Studies’ by Tyler and Reid (ISBN: 9781846904943).

Talks from various religious leaders including a Buddhist Monk.

Entry requirements

Five GCSE Grade 6 to 9 including Maths. Students require a GCSE Grade 6 in English.

For more information contact

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Futures

Law, political science, Police, bioethics, teaching and lecturing, social work, care work, government, medicine.

Exam board

