



CITY OF LONDON ACADEMY
ISLINGTON

WHERE STUDENTS SUCCEED

Philosophy

A Level Philosophy

Why choose this subject?

- *Was our universe designed or did it randomly appear?*
- *Who decides if something is right or wrong?*
- *Can violence ever be justified?*
- *Should parents have the right to genetically modify their babies?*
- *Are human rights universal or contractual?*
- *Should a self-driving car prioritise the life of its driver or pedestrians?*

Simply put, philosophy is the study of thought and ideas. This course develops your capacity to think, argue and articulate different points of view. Uniquely, there is a focus on your own individual thoughts and opinions. You will learn how to debate, how to empathise with different points of view, and how evaluate the quality of logic and thought in fundamental human ideas.

Over your lifetime, the world will increasingly be shaped by how we respond to key philosophical ideas. Technology such as artificial intelligence, genetic engineering and financial algorithms will likely change modern life beyond recognition. Instead of being a bystander to this change, philosophy enables you to engage in the key ethical principles behind these changes and take a full part in our most important conversations.

Philosophy is an excellent gateway into law, journalism or business – careers that require significant levels of decision making. It is also a good companion to medicine, providing an ethical framework to the practice of modern science.

What Will I Be Studying?

The qualification has a straightforward structure with five engaging topics:

1. **Introduction to the study of religion**
2. **Introduction to the philosophy of religion**
3. **The study of religion**
4. **Religion & ethics**
5. **Philosophy of religion**

Entry Criteria

Five 5-9 grades at GCSE, plus grade 6 or above in an essay-based GCSE e.g. English Language or Literature GCSE.

How will I be assessed?

Component 1: Introduction to the study of religion

Written examination: 1 hour 15 minutes 15% of the qualification

Content overview

- A depth study of a major world religion with a focus on it's key beliefs, practices, life and identity.

Component 2: An introduction to Religion & Ethics and the philosophy of religion

Written examination: 1 hour 45 minutes 25% of the qualification

Content overview

- A study of 4 fundamental ethical themes: Ethical thought, natural law, situational ethics and utilitarianism.

Component 3: A study of religion (Social development & human rights)

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 20% of the qualification

Content overview

- A depth study of a major world religion with a focus on its social development & human rights

Component 4: Ethics

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes, 20% of the qualification

Content overview

- A focus on four ethical themes: ethical thought, deontology, determinism and freewill.

Component 5: Philosophy of Religion

Written examination: 1 hour 30 minutes 20% of the qualification

Content overview

- A focus on four philosophical themes: challenges to belief, experience and language.