

Ethics and Philosophy A Level Specification Course Outline

Assessment

Qualification: A Level

Awarding body: OCR

This qualification is linear. This means that there is no coursework and students will sit all exams at the end of the course.

Component 1: Philosophy of Religion

What is assessed?

Students study philosophical language and thought, and issues and questions raised by belief:

- Ancient philosophical influences
- The nature of the soul, mind and body
- Arguments about the existence or non-existence of God
- The nature and impact of religious experience
- The challenge for religious belief of the problem of evil
- Ideas about the nature of God
- Issues in religious language

How is it assessed?

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 120 marks
- 33.3% of a Level

Questions

- Each paper will contain four essay questions; you must choose three out of the four to answer
- Each essay is marked out of 40
- Each essay will test both AO1 (knowledge and understanding) and AO2 (analysis and evaluation)

Component 2: Religion and Ethics

What is assessed?

Students explore key concepts and the works of influential thinkers, ethical theories and their application:

- Normative ethical theories
- The application of ethical theory to two contemporary issues of importance
- Ethical language and thought
- Debates surrounding the significant idea of conscience
- Sexual ethics and the influence on ethical thought of developments in religious beliefs

How is it assessed?

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 120 marks
- 33.3% of a Level

Questions

- Each paper will contain four essay questions; you must choose three out of the four to answer
- Each essay is marked out of 40
- Each essay will test both AO1 (knowledge and understanding) and AO2 (analysis and evaluation)

Component 3: Developments in Religious Thought

What is assessed?

Students systematically study the following topics in Christianity:

- Religious beliefs, values and teachings, their interconnections and how they vary historically and in the contemporary world
- Sources of religious wisdom and authority
- Practices which shape and express religious identity, and how these vary within a tradition
- Significant social and historical developments in theology and religious thought
- Key themes related to the relationship between religion and society.

How is it assessed?

- Written exam: 2 hours
- 120 marks
- 33.3% of a Level

Questions

- Each paper will contain four essay questions; you must choose three out of the four to answer
- Each essay is marked out of 40
- Each essay will test both AO1 (knowledge and understanding) and AO2 (analysis and evaluation)

Link to OCR course specification

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/>

Course Leader

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