Philosophy, Religion and Ethics

COURSE OVERVIEW

This subject examines ultimate questions in a critical, reasoned way. There are three papers to study:

Paper 1 – **Christianity**. Who is Jesus? Does God suffer? How do Christian's worship? Who wrote the Bible and how is it used by Christians?

Paper 2 – **Philosophy of Religion**. Arguments for God's existence; Evil and Suffering; Religion and Science; Religious Language.

Paper 3 – **Ethics**. How do we decide what makes an action 'good'? The theories of Bentham, Mill, Aristotle and Aquinas. Applied ethics, including Animal testing, abortion and euthanasia.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS DEVELOPED

You will learn how to use the language of Philosophy, the basics of ethical theories, and the key doctrines of a major world faith: Christianity.

This subject hones your ability to **reason effectively** and form coherent arguments, to **write persuasively**, and improves your logical and critical thinking. It challenges your understanding and assumptions of axiomatic concepts like human nature, and whether God exists.

Expect lots of essays, chances to debate different philosophical theories and set texts, and **the opportunity to encounter historically influential thinkers and ideas.**

There is a large workload, and a lot of content to cover, so students also gain **time management** and **organisational skills**.

Qualification: **A-Level**

Awarding Body: **Eduqas**

ASSESSMENT METHOD

A level qualification: three exams, one for each paper, lasting two hours each. Taken at the end of the second year.

The A level paper includes questions which assess student's knowledge, understanding and evaluation.

OPPORTUNITIES AND CAREERS

The department is keen to take advantage of expert speakers in our local area. Past speakers have included a GP, a soldier, a local business leader and several church leaders from various churches nearby.

This subject works well with both Science and Arts subjects and can be used as part of an application to Medicine, Law, Journalism and a range of others. Recent Kimberley PRE students have taken degrees in Philosophy, Computer Science, Sociology, Law, PPE, Speech Therapy, Government and Politics, Criminology, Medicine, and many more!

"I have really enjoyed Ethics, as it is so relevant'

"Philosophy is the subject I find myself thinking about more times than not, due to its fascinating nature"

'This subject has given me many ways of considering whether or not there is a purpose to life, and how I would know'