Hayesfield GIRLS' SCHOOL | MIXED SIXTH

Curriculum Booklet 2025-2026

Head of Department:

Mary Patterson

Subject Curriculum Intent:

To give students as wide an understanding of Religion and Philosophy as possible within the scope of the A Level syllabus options.
To engage students in philosophical and ethical thought and debate in order to prepare them for the challenges of life in the 21st century
To increase confidence in public speaking, dialogue and debate and promote academic scholarship.

Subject Curriculum Implementation:

At the start of year 12 we explicitly teach certain study skills to help support students in their learning of Philosophy and Ethics. This includes teaching how to take part in a philosophical discussion and how to construct an argument. We build confidence in their speaking and writing.
We use our 'ghost lessons' to direct them to listen to podcasts, documentaries and wider reading.

All assessment at A Level is through 40 mark essays and so we practice essay writing skills in lessons to prepare students for assessment and we provide resources and methods for revision. We also do end of unit knowledge quizzes to make sure everything ahas been learned before moving on to a timed essay.

At Hayesfield we deliver all Philosophy and Ethics content in year 12 so that all Buddhism can be studied together in year 13. We have found that this helps students to focus on one worldview at a time and gives us time to revise Philosophy and Ethics from January of year 13.

Allocated Curriculum Time:

	Year 12	Year 13
Fortnightly lesson allocation	9	9

Year 12

Exam Board: OCR
Specification: Religious Studies

Term	Curriculum Foci Areas (Paper 1: Philosophy, Paper 2: Ethics)	
1	**1.1 Ancient Philosophical influences** ● An introduction to the different approaches to the study of Philosophy, including key terms. ● Understanding the influence of Ancient Greek Philosophers including Socrates, Plato and Aristotle **2.1 and 2.2 An introduction to Religious Normative Ethics** ● Natural Law. ● Situation Ethics	**Assessment details** 2 timed essays (40 minutes each) 1. **Philosophy:** Plato and Aristotle 2. **Ethics:** Evaluation of Natural Law

2	**1.2 Soul, Mind and Body** ● Considering Plato's Dualism, Aristotle's Monism, Descartes ideas about Substance dualism and the approach of Materialism. **2.3 and 2.4 An introduction to Non religious Normative Ethics** ● Utilitarianism ● Kantian Ethics	**Assessment details** 2 timed essays (40 minutes each) 1. **Philosophy:** Soul, Mind and Body **2. Ethics:** Evaluation of Kantian Ethics
3	**1.4 Arguments from Observation** ● Including Aquinas' Cosmological Argument and Teleological arguments, The Teleological argument of William Paley. ● The criticisms of David Hume and the challenges posed by scientific theories such as evolution. **1.5 Arguments from Reason** ● Exploring the Ontological Arguments of Anselm and Descartes and the criticisms from Kant. **2.5 and 2.6 Applied Ethics** ● Euthanasia ● Business Ethics	**Assessment details** 2 timed essays (40 minutes each) 1. **Philosophy:** Evaluating the Arguments from Observation **2. Ethics:** Business Ethics
4	**1.6 Religious Experience** ● Including visions, voices, miracles, conversion and corporate and numinous experiences. ● The findings and conclusions of William James. ● Alternative explanations to religious experiences from biology, psychology and sociology. **2.7 Applied Ethics** ● Sexual Ethics	**Assessment details** The Year 12 exam will be 2 full papers. Each paper is 2 hours long and students will write 3 essays in that time.
5	**1.7 The Problem of Evil** ● Understanding the logical and evidential problems of evil. ● The theodicies from Augustine, Irenaues and Hick **1.8 The Nature and Attributes of God** ● omnipotence, omniscience and omnibenevolence. ● The philosophical problems surrounding an Eternal God. ● Free Will with reference to Boethius, Swinburne and Anselm. **2.8 The Conscience** ● Religious and psychological ideas about the conscience.	**Assessment details** 2 timed essays (40 minutes each) 1. **Philosophy:** The Problem of Evil **2. Ethics:** The Conscience
6	**1.9 Religious Language** ● Via Negativa, Analogy and Symbol. ● Ayer's Logical Positivism and Language Games according to Wittgenstein. ● The Falsification Symposium from Flew, Hare and Mitchell. **2.9 Meta Ethics**	**Assessment details** 2 timed essays (40 minutes each) 1. **Philosophy:** The Nature of God **2. Ethics:** Meta Ethics

Year 13

Term	Curriculum Foci Areas (Paper 3: Buddhism)	
1	**3.1 The Life and Intellectual Context of the Buddha** **3.2 Taking Refuge** **3.3 Samsara** **3.4 The Three Marks of Existence**	**Assessment details** 2 timed essays (40 minutes each) There will be a choice of these 4 units.
2	**3.5 The Four Noble Truths** **3.6 Meditation**	**Assessment details** 2 timed essays (40 minutes each) **1.** Four Noble Truths 2. Meditation
3	**3. 7 Mahayana Buddhism and Madhyamaka philosophy** **3.8 Buddhism in the Far East**	**Assessment details** 2 timed essays (40 minutes each) **3.** Mahayana Buddhism 4. Far East
4	**3.9 Buddhism in the West** **3.10 Buddhist Activism** **3.11 Buddhism and Gender**	**Assessment details** 2 timed essays (40 minutes each) **5.** Mahayana Buddhism 6. Far East
5	**Revision and Exams**	