

Year 12 - Ethics

Assessment Criteria –

- AS OCR Philosophy of Religion OCR

Autumn term

Ethical Theories

Students will focus on the concepts of absolutist and relativist morality; what it means to call an ethical theory absolutist and objective; what it means to call an ethical theory relativist and subjective and the terms deontological and teleological. Students should be able discuss critically these concepts and their strengths and weaknesses

Natural Law

Students will focus on the origins of Aquinas' Natural Law in Aristotle's idea of purpose; Aquinas' ideas of purpose and perfection; the use of reason to discover Natural Law and the primary and secondary precepts. Students should be able to discuss critically these views and their strengths and weaknesses.

Kantian Ethics

Students will focus on the difference between the Categorical and the Hypothetical Imperatives; the various formulations of the Categorical Imperative; Kant's understanding of the universalisation of maxims; Kant's theory of duty and Kant's ideas of the moral law, good will and the summum bonum. Students should be able to discuss critically these theories and

Utilitarianism

Students will focus on the classical forms of Utilitarianism from Bentham and Mill; the principle of Utility; the differences between the Utilitarianism of Bentham and of Mill; the Hedonic Calculus, higher and lower pleasures, quantity v. quality, and Act and Rule Utilitarianism and the Preference Utilitarianism of Peter Singer. Students should be able to discuss critically these issues and their strengths and weaknesses.

Spring Term

Situation Ethics

Students will study the main ethical principles of the religion studied and how the followers of the religion make ethical decisions. Students will focus on the ways in which religion and morality may seem to be linked or be seen as separate from each other; how far morality may be seen as dependant on God (Divine Command theory); how far religious ethics may be seen as absolutist or relativist and how ethical theories may be considered religious. Students should be able to discuss critically these issues and their strengths and weaknesses

Euthanasia

- Students will focus on the concept of the 'Sanctity of Life' and how it applies to euthanasia; the concept of the 'Quality of Life' and how it applies to euthanasia; the right to life as applied to euthanasia; and the application and the different approaches of the ethical theories listed above to euthanasia. Students should be able to discuss critically these issues and their strengths and weaknesses.

Summer Term

Business Ethics

Learners should have the opportunity to discuss issues raised by these areas of business ethics, including:

- ☐ the application of **Kantian ethics** and **utilitarianism** to business ethics
- ☐ whether or not the concept of corporate social responsibility is nothing more than 'hypocritical window-dressing' covering the greed of a business intent on making profits
- ☐ whether or not human beings can flourish in the context of capitalism and consumerism
- ☐ whether globalisation encourages or discourages the pursuit of good ethics as the foundation of good business

- 100% Examination sat at the end of Year 12
- 1 hour and 15 minutes exam

- The student will choose 2 from the 3 available questions

Curriculum Map / Areas of Study -

- Students will study Ethics for 2 hours per week