

# Year 12 - Philosophy

## Autumn term

Plato

Students will focus on Plato's cave analogy and what might be represented in the Analogy of the Cave by the following: the prisoners, the shadows, the cave itself, the outside world, the sun, the journey out of the cave and the return to the prisoners. Students will develop an ability to discuss critically the validity of the points being made in this analogy. Students will explore what Plato meant by 'Forms' and be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of: the relation between concepts and phenomena; the concept of 'Ideals' the relation between the Form of the Good and the other Forms

Aristotle

Students will focus on Aristotle's understanding of material, efficient, formal and final cause and Aristotle's concept of the Prime Mover. Candidates should be able to discuss critically the validity of the above points

### Ontological Argument

Students will study the Ontological argument from Anselm and Descartes and challenges to it from Gaunilo and Kant. Students will focus on Anselm's understanding of God – his understanding of the differences between contingent and necessary existence; Descartes' understanding of existence as a perfection which God cannot lack; Gaunilo's analogy of the island in *On Behalf of the Fool*. Candidates should be able to discuss critically these views and their strengths and weaknesses.

### Teleological Argument

Students will focus on the teleological argument from Aquinas and Paley and the challenges to it from Hume, Mill and Darwinism. Students should be able to discuss critically these views and their strengths and weaknesses.

### Cosmological Argument

Students will focus on the Cosmological argument from Aquinas and Copleston and the arguments put forward by Copleston in the 1948 radio debate with Russell and Russell's counter arguments; Hume's criticisms of the cosmological argument. Students should be able to discuss critically these views and their strengths and weaknesses.

## Spring Term

Soul, mind & body

Learners should have the opportunity to discuss issues related to ideas about soul, mind and body, including:

- materialist critiques of dualism, and dualist responses to materialism
- whether the concept of 'soul' is best understood metaphorically or as a reality
- the idea that any discussion about the mind-body distinction is a category error

Religious Experience

Learners should have the opportunity to discuss issues related to arguments for the existence of God based on reason, including:

- whether personal testimony or witness is enough to support the validity of religious experiences
- whether or not corporate religious experiences might be considered more reliable or valid than individual experiences
- whether or not religious experience provides a basis for belief in God or a greater power

## Summer Term

### Problem of Evil

Students will focus on the problem of evil: the classic theodicies of Augustine and Irenaeus; the nature of the problem of evil and the possible differences between natural and moral evil; how each theodicy understands the responsibility of God for the existence of evil in the world; and the origins of evil and the role of human free will. Students should be able to discuss critically these approaches and their strengths and weaknesses.

### Assessment Criteria –

- AS OCR Philosophy of Religion OCR
- 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 Philosophy for 2 hours per week