

# PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS KS5



**Plato, Aristotle**  
**Philosophy of Religion** - How is knowledge gained?  
 What is the purpose of Plato's analogy of the cave?  
 Platon's theory of forms - what is real?  
 Aristotle's four causes - why should we use our senses?  
 Does Aristotle's Prime Mover explain the world?  
 Is the Prime Mover or the Form of the Good more successful?

**Is it mind and body**  
**Philosophy of Religion** - Are we our mind or body?  
 What is Plato's view of the soul?  
 Why does Descartes argue that the soul cannot be separated from the body?  
 Why does Descartes argue that the mind and body are separate substances?  
 Is materialism right?  
 Am I a body?

**YR12**

**Religious experience**  
**Philosophy of Religion** - Can religious experiences prove God's existence?  
 Are mystical experiences enough to believe in God?  
 Are conversion experiences the most convincing religious experiences?  
 Are religious experiences evidence of union with a higher power?  
 Are religious experiences caused by psychological factors?  
 Are religious experiences caused by physiological factors?

**Cosmological argument, Teleological argument, Ontological argument**  
**Philosophy of Religion** - Can the existence of God be proved via experience or reason?  
 Is Aquinas right to argue for a designer God?  
 Is Paley's teleological argument successful?  
 Are Hume's criticisms of the teleological and cosmological arguments successful?  
 Is evolution a better explanation?  
 Is the cosmological argument convincing?  
 Does Aquinas prove God's existence?  
 Does Gaunilo defeat Anselm's ontological argument?  
 Does Descartes' ontological argument survive Kant's criticism?  
 Are a priori or a posteriori arguments more persuasive?

**Evil and suffering**  
**Philosophy of Religion** - How can God and evil and suffering exist together?  
 Does the logical problem of evil mean that God cannot exist?  
 Does the amount of evil in the world challenge belief?  
 Is Augustine successful in removing blame from God?  
 Is Job's explanation that evil has a purpose in context?

**Naturalistic, Situation Ethics, Religious Ethics**  
**Religious Ethics** - Are normative ethical theories right to take a religious approach to moral decision-making?  
 What are the key ideas of utilitarianism?  
 Is utilitarianism a helpful method of moral decision-making?  
 Can right or wrong be based on the idea of total utility?  
 Do human beings and all of creation really have an orientation towards the good?  
 What are the key ideas of situation ethics?  
 Is situation ethics a helpful method of moral decision-making?  
 Should ethical judgements really be based on agape?

**Business Ethics**  
**Religious Ethics** - How can we apply ethical theories to business issues?  
 Does the idea of the sanctity of life still apply in the 21st century?  
 Is utilitarianism a good approach to business ethics?  
 Should people have autonomy over their own lives and decisions?  
 Should euthanasia be permitted?  
 What are the key issues in business ethics?  
 How helpful is utilitarianism to business ethics?  
 How helpful is a Kantian approach to business ethics?  
 Can people flourish in a capitalist, consumerist society?

**Utilitarianism, Kantian Ethics**  
**Religious Ethics** - Are normative ethical theories right to take a secular approach to moral decision-making?  
 What are the key ideas of utilitarianism?  
 Is utilitarianism a helpful way of making moral decisions?  
 Can pleasure, happiness or goodness be measured?  
 Should ethical judgements be based on a concept such as utility?  
 What are the key ideas of Kantian ethics?  
 Does Kantian ethics provide a helpful way of making moral decisions?  
 Can ethical judgements depend on duty?  
 Does Kant really 'own' his religion?

**Augustine and human nature, Death and the afterlife, Developments of Christian Thought** - What are the Christian beliefs, teachings and ideas about human life, the world and ultimate reality?  
 Is Augustine's teaching on a hierarchical and Original Sin wrong?  
 Substantiate right that humans can never be free from sin?  
 Is there a distinct human nature?  
 Why do Christians believe in hell?  
 Is purgatory a gift through which everyone goes?  
 Will all people be saved?

**Jesus and Revealed Knowledge, The Person of Jesus, Developments of Christian Thought** - What are the origins and developments of Christianity and the sources of wisdom on which it is based?  
 How do humans have knowledge of God?  
 Is there sufficient reason for belief in God's existence?  
 How is the revealed knowledge of God the same as revealed knowledge?  
 Who was Jesus?  
 Was Jesus only a teacher of wisdom?  
 Was Jesus more than a political liberator?  
 Was Jesus the Son of God?

**Religious Experience, Theism, Deism, Pantheism, Atheism**  
**Philosophy of Religion** - What characteristics does God have?  
 In what ways can God be omnipotent?  
 Realism - does God interact with us and embrace compromise free will?  
 Anselm's view - does God's eternal nature and omnipotence compromise free will?  
 Does divine eternity mean that God is not falling?  
 What does it mean for God to be omnibenevolent?  
 Is the nature of God logically consistent?

**Christian moral principles, Christian moral action** - The life and message of Jesus Christ  
**Developments of Christian Thought** - What are the diversity of ethics and practice within Christianity, including those that shape and express religious identity, the role of the community of believers and key moral principles?  
 Where do Christians get their moral principles from?  
 Is the Bible a comprehensive moral guide?  
 Are Christian ethics essential to Christianity?  
 Are Christian ethics distinctive?  
 Is duty to God more important than duty to the State?  
 Can Christians always love God's will?  
 How realistic was Augustine's view of a Christian life?

**YR13**

**19th - 20th century - Via negativa, Via positiva, Analogy, Symbolic**  
**Philosophy of Religion** - Is it possible to say anything about God?  
 Is the via negativa the best way to talk about God?  
 Is Aquinas' use of analogy a more effective way to talk about God?  
 Is Wittgenstein's language a better way to talk about God?  
 Is analogy, via negativa, symbolic language the most useful way to talk about God?

**19th - 20th century - Via negativa, Via positiva, Analogy, Symbolic**  
**Philosophy of Religion** - Does religious language have any meaning?  
 Is religious language meaningful?  
 Is religious language meaningful, according to Wittgenstein?  
 Should religious texts be interpreted non-cognitively?  
 Does the Frankfurt approach help understand religious language?

**Aquinas' religious explanation of conscience, Religious Ethics** - Is our conscience something that is acquired or that we are born with?  
 How do we make moral decisions?  
 How helpful is Aquinas' view of the conscience?  
 How helpful is Plato's view of the conscience?  
 What impact does society have on forming the conscience?

**Religious Ethics**  
**Religious Ethics** - How has ethical language in the modern era changed over time?  
 What do the terms good, bad, right, wrong mean?  
 Can moral values be understood as depending on property of the world?  
 Do people just know what is right and wrong?  
 Do the ideas of right and wrong mainly show approval and disapproval of actions?

**Responsibility, Personal and interpersonal ethics**  
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**Exam preparation**  
 How can I make sure I am revising effectively for this subject?  
 How do I memorise and recall knowledge I need for the exam?  
 How do I make sure I know the key concepts in this subject's exam?  
 What are the gaps in my knowledge and how can I address them?  
 How do I approach exam questions in this subject to ensure I reach the highest grade?  
 What do I need to do to prepare myself for university courses?  
 What do I need to do to prepare myself for employment?

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