

Philosophy & Ethics KS5

Year 12

Autumn 1	How do we gain knowledge? What is Plato's analogy of the cave and his theory of the Forms? What are Aristotle's four causes? How does the Prime Mover explain change in the world? Am I something more than my body? What are Aristotle's and Plato's view of the soul? What is substance dualism? Is materialism right, that there is only a body?
Autumn 2	What are the different arguments for the existence of the God? What is the teleological argument? What is the cosmological argument? What is the ontological argument? Do religious experiences prove God's existence? How do religious experiences prove God's existence? What are alternative explanations for religious experience?
Spring 1	Why is there evil and suffering in the world? Can God exist and there be evil and suffering in the world? How does Augustine answer the problem of evil? Is there a purpose to evil? Are ethical theories right to take a religious approach to moral decision making? What are the key ideas of Natural Law? What are the key ideas to Situation ethics?
Spring 2	Are ethical theories right to take a secular approach to moral decision making? What are the key ideas of Utilitarianism? What are the key ideas of Kantian ethics? How can we apply ethical theories to two issues of importance? How can we apply Natural Law and Situation ethics to the issue of Euthanasia? How can we apply Utilitarianism and Kantian Ethics to the issue of Business Ethics?
Summer 1	What are the Christian beliefs and teachings about human life, the world and ultimate reality? What are Augustine's teachings on human nature? What do Christians believe happens to people after they die? Do heaven, hell and purgatory exist? What are the origins and development of Christianity, and the sources of wisdom on which it is based? How do humans have knowledge of God? Who was Jesus? Is he the Son of God, a moral teacher or political liberator?
Summer 2	What are the diverse ethics and practices within Christianity? Where do Christians get their moral principles from? How realistic is Bonhoeffer's view of a Christian life?
Autumn 1	What characteristics does God have? In what ways can God be omnipotent? Does God's omniscience compromise free will? What does it mean for God to be omnibenevolent? 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 better way to talk about God? Is Tillich's use of symbolic language a better way to talk about God?
Autumn 2	Does religious language have any meaning? Is the verification, right? Is religious language meaningful, according to Wittgenstein? Does falsification help understand religious language? What do ethical terms mean? Do ethical terms show approval/disapproval? Can moral values be understood as describing a property of the world? Do people intuitively know what is right and wrong?
Spring 1	Is our conscience something that we acquire or something that we are born with? What is Aquinas' theological explanation of conscience? What is Freud's psychological explanation of conscience? How has sexual ethics developed over time and been influenced by ethical theories? Is natural law, situation ethics, utilitarianism and Kantian ethics a helpful approach to sexual ethics? Should religious ideas have an influence on sexual ethics?
Spring 2	What are the significant societal and historical developments in Christian thought? Is Christianity the only way to achieve salvation? Can inter-faith dialogue help with community cohesion? What is the relationship between religion and society in relation to gender? Does Christianity influence gender roles? Can feminist thought inspire change in Christianity? What are the teachings of Rosemary Radford Ruether and Mary Daly?
Summer 1	What are the challenges facing religious thought? Is secularism a challenge to Christianity? What is Liberation theology? How successful is Marxist teaching on alienation and exploitation?
Summer 2	Exams

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