

Philosophy, Theology and Ethics

@S6F

Do you enjoy?

- Taking part in discussions and debates
- Listening to other people's views
- Learning about unusual ideas from both atheists and religious thinkers
- Looking for answers when there are no set right or wrongs

If so Philosophy, Theology and Ethics @S6F is the course for you!

This course offers the opportunity for inquisitive individuals to discuss some of the ultimate questions facing humanity today, delving into key philosophical arguments from the views of Plato and Aristotle. It also questions God's existence, the problem of evil in the world and explores belief in relation to key atheists such as Richard Dawkins, Bertrand Russell and Freud.

Students are encouraged to interact and take part in lessons through group and paired work but independent study is also crucial - below you will find some useful clips, readings, films & activities that will help prepare your mind for studying philosophy, theology and ethics.

If you have any burning questions please contact me on a.horsley@s6f.org.uk

A few topic areas:

Philosophy	Theology	Ethics
Greek Philosophers Problem of Evil Ontological Argument	Gender and Society Secularization Bonhoeffer	Utilitarianism Euthanasia Business Ethics

A few discussion questions:

Philosophy	Theology	Ethics
Is God responsible for evil? Is God an illusion of the mind?	Should women submit to men? Should Christians convert others to their beliefs?	Should euthanasia be legal in the UK? Is pleasure and happiness the same?

WATCH THIS!

- Louis Theroux Documentaries
- The Good Place series
- The Platform
- The Two Popes
- Matrix
- Green Book
- Morgan Freeman: The Story of God series

NETFLIX

- [Crash Course Philosophy](#)
- [Wireless Philosophy](#)
- [Qualia Soup](#)
- [MrMcMillanREvis](#)

YouTube



- The God Delusion – Richard Dawkins
- The Puzzle of... (series) - Peter Vardy
- Night – Elie Wiesel
- Run Baby Run – Nicky Cruz
- Mere Christianity – C. S. Lewis
- Why I am not a Christian – Bertrand Russell

The Philosophy Man -
thephilosophyman.com

Philosophers Magazine -
philosophersmag.com



LISTEN

Podcast on the '[Socratic Method](#)'
[13 minutes]

James Wilson '[Real World Ethics](#)' [20 minutes]



Audio Books:

[Loyal Books](#)

[Learn Out Loud](#)



Extras

The TED Talks logo is displayed in a black rectangular box. The word "TED" is in red and "Talks" is in white.

TED talks – these are usually wonderful, with plenty to stimulate your questioning and reasoning skills.

Some favorites:

- Elizabeth Loftus – how reliable is your memory?
- Dan Gilbert – why we make bad decisions
- Richard Dawkins – militant atheism
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – We should all be feminists
- Damon Horowitz – Philosophy in prison
- His Holiness the Karmapa: The technology of the heart
- Playlist: Are you there, God? (11 talks)
- Matthieu Ricard: The habits of happiness

There are loads of talks on here, so use the search engine to find topics that interest you. Practice notetaking; write notes as you listen, just as you would if you were listening to a real-life lecture, and practice the skill of jotting down key points at speed. Ask yourself questions when you get to the end: what were the speaker's key messages? Do you agree with the speaker? What might someone who disagreed say, and what might their reasons be?

Sexual Ethics

Activity 1.

This is the first episode of a documentary about attitudes towards homosexuality

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IMPl25oraVc>

This is the first episode of Stephen Fry's series 'Out There', where he explores attitudes to homosexuality in different parts of the world.

Questions to think about and/or write about – try to support your answers with reasoning.

1. Do you think there is a 'right' attitude and a 'wrong' attitude towards homosexuality? What is it that makes these attitudes right or wrong?
2. Some people might argue that different cultures have different ideas about morality, and that these different cultural beliefs should be respected even if we don't agree with them. Do you think we should always respect the beliefs and attitudes of cultures different from our own, or should we try to persuade them to adopt our own beliefs instead?
3. What do you think are the aims of this television series? Do you think they are good aims? Do you think this first episode is successful in achieving its aims?
4. What religious reasons do people sometimes give for opposing homosexual relationships? How would you support or oppose these views?



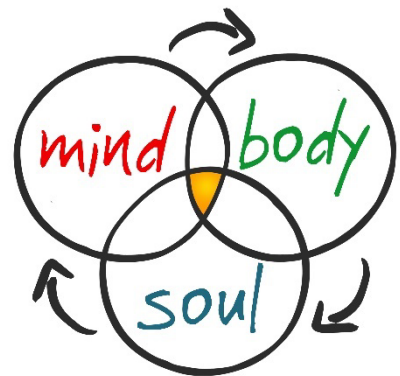
Body, Mind and Soul

Activity 2

Watch this documentary, 'Barra Boy'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhGX1YCsvAM>

1. Do you think the story provides convincing evidence for reincarnation? Why, or why not?
2. What do you think counts as 'convincing evidence' for life after death (e.g. scripture, near death experiences, nothing)? What makes evidence convincing or unconvincing?
3. Do you find these stories convincing? Why, or why not?
4. Do you think the stories contradict each other, or are they just told from different points of view, in your opinion? What might account for the differences and the similarities between the stories?



Research

There are all kinds of resources online and in books to help you, if you want to start to learn a little more about some of the philosophers you will meet in your A Level course.

Use Wikipedia as a starting point and follow some of the links in the articles. You could do some research about:

People	Other
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Plato• Aristotle• Aquinas• Bentham• Mill• Hume• Kant• Freud• Darwin• Dawkins	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Hinduism- Reincarnation• Egyptian – life after death• Cults• Superstitions• Viking traditions• Marxism• Feminism• Gender• Atheism• Judaism - Holocaust

Practice using a range of sources to find out about a single person. When you have gathered together range of information, try and synthesise it into a single piece of writing of your own.

Most common questions asked:



Do you need to have a belief in God?

Absolutely not! Every class has a diverse mixture of students, some who believe in God, some who question God, some who do not believe in God and some who are just not sure. All students are interested in developing their views.

Do you learn about world religions?

The course is directed towards learning about different philosophers' views towards religion so it does not focus on world religions in general. One third of the course studies Christianity though which focuses upon questioning, exploring and debating philosophically aspects within Christianity. Sometimes parallels are drawn between ideas contained within other religions, for example Hinduism and Judaism.

What do you do in lessons?

Within most lessons a particular argument or philosopher is explored such as Plato and his views. The students then have the opportunity to discuss their thoughts on the arguments and work out any strengths and flaws based on their own opinions. We then work through activities and finally link the work to exam preparation.

Do you need to have done RS at school

Absolutely not! As the course focuses on philosophers views most students have never studied or even heard of most of the arguments.... That's why it is so exciting! With this in mind every lesson goes over the arguments slowly and there is always an opportunity to ask or answer questions. It is however recommend that you have a strong grasp of English as the exam is essay style answers and therefore there is often a lot of writing involved in class to prepare for this.

I hope you are staying safe and that you are excited for your next journey at Scarborough Sixth Form College - See you in September!