



# ABBEGATE

Sixth Form College

## Philosophy & Ethics

Entry requirements: a minimum of 5 GCSEs at Grade 4 - 9 and minimum Grade 5 English Language or a Humanities Subject

### STUDENT PROFILE

This course will appeal to students who:

- find themselves thinking philosophically about meaningful issues such as life after death, reasons for believing or not believing in God, and the nature of evidence and proof
- enjoy considering the various ways in which humans make moral decisions and reach a perspective on an ethical dilemma
- take a natural interest in current debates concerning ethics and religion
- enjoy discussing moral and religious issues with an open mind, being prepared to listen to contrasting points of view.

### PROGRESSION

Successful completion of this A-level will give access to a range of possible career and higher education opportunities. The course will provide you with the opportunity to develop a range of transferable skills. These include the collecting, synthesising and interpreting information. These skills are in great demand and are recognised by employers and universities as being of great value.

This subject combines with almost all other humanities A-level subjects. It can lead to university courses such as Law, Business, Economics, Philosophy and Media Studies.

Student View

### STUDENT VIEW

"The lessons provoke interesting debates. The course has developed my analytic skills, and has asked that I am critical of what I read. These, I feel, are important abilities."

[www.abbeygatesfc.ac.uk](http://www.abbeygatesfc.ac.uk)

[@abbeygatesfc](https://twitter.com/abbeygatesfc) [f/abbeygatesfc](https://www.facebook.com/abbeygatesfc) [/abbeygatesfc](https://www.instagram.com/abbeygatesfc)

## COURSE CONTENT

Component 1: Philosophy of Religion and Ethics (written examination of 3 hours, worth 50%)

### Section A – Philosophy and Religion

This unit will explore differing Christian beliefs about God and the relationship between God and the world. This includes in-depth coverage of some of the key arguments for the existence of God such as the teleological, cosmological and ontological arguments. This unit also explores challenges to the existence of God, for example - the problem of suffering and also significant religious beliefs concerning life after death, religious experience and miracles.

### Section B – Ethics and Religion

In this unit, students will develop their knowledge of key moral principles and ways of making moral decisions. This unit will explore notable ethical theories such as virtue ethics, situation ethics and natural moral law, and also their application to issues such as lying, theft and issues of human life and death. Embryo research, abortion, euthanasia and capital punishment will also be covered. The theories are also applied to issues concerning animal life and death such as the use of animals as a source of organ transplantation. In addition, students consider the role of free-will and conscience within moral responsibility and compare the ethical theories of Immanuel Kant and Jeremy Bentham.

Component 2: Study of Religion and Dialogues (written examination of 3 hours, worth 50%)

### Section A – Study of Religion (Christianity)

This unit is an in-depth study of the Christian religion in relation to a number of key areas such as sources of wisdom and authority, belief in God, the self, and the afterlife. Students will consider the challenge posed to religion by science and how religion has responded to scientific discoveries and developments. In a discussion concerning religious pluralism, students will consider the impact of migration and differing attitudes to other faiths. Students will also explore issues of secularisation and the rise of a new militant atheism, considering the threat that this poses to Christianity. Religion will also be discussed in the context of identity, particularly issues of gender and sexuality.

Section B – The dialogue between Philosophy of Religion and Christianity In this section students will consider how the Christian religion is influenced by, and has an influence on, philosophy of religion in relation to the following issues; God, life after death, the authority of scripture, religious experience, the relationship between religion and science, truth claims of other religions, and miracles.

Section C – The dialogue between Ethical Studies and Christianity In this section students will explore how the Christian religion is influenced by, and has an influence on, ethical studies. For example, students will consider how far Christian ethics can be considered to be deontological, teleological, consequential, or character based. Students will also look at Christian responses to issues of human life and death and issues of animal life and death along with the issues of theft and lying, marriage and divorce, homosexuality and transgenderism, and genetic engineering.