

What do we study in Y7 Philosophy?

Year 7 Philosophy *Students are encouraged to ask the BIG questions about themselves, their lives and the world around them.*

Autumn Term

How do I interpret the world around me?

In this unit pupils are introduced to the idea of philosophy through an overview of key Greek thinkers. From this they will focus on the idea that all humans have a worldview. This will lay foundations for all the work they will do in KS3.

Considering Covenants

A covenant is a solemn, sacred, and binding promise between God and humanity. We study the story of Abraham in depth understanding how and why he is such a pivotal figure for Jews, Muslims and Christians. We will also examine how many Christians interpret the new covenant.

Spring Term

Who are the prophets?

This unit will deepen pupils' understanding of the concept of Prophethood in the Abrahamic traditions. We will investigate the stories that connect Christians, Jews and Muslims. We will analyse similarities and differences.

Jesus: The man, the myth, the legend

In this unit we will build on our understanding of Abrahamic worldviews to investigate how Jesus is seen by Christians, Muslims and Jews. We will learn how the messiah has not yet come for Jews, whilst Jesus or Isa is a prophet for Muslims.

How will I be assessed?

At the start of each lesson and via homework
You will be assessed at the end of each unit on knowledge and evaluative skills.

Summer Term

How are Dharmic faiths different?

Dharma represents the underlying laws of the universe and the specific obligations expected of an individual. In this unit we will investigate how the concept of dharma is interpreted by Hindus, Sikhs and Buddhists.

How do Sikhs promote equality?

In this unit we study the idea of equality and service in Sikhi. Beginning through a study of Guru Nanak we will learn of his critique of Indian society. We will look at further stories to see how the fight for justice is central to Sikh identity historically and today.

In Y8 I will learn:

- Ethics 'How do we know what is good?'
- Denominations – why did the Christian church become diverse?
- How are the three jewels significant to Buddhism?
- Are religious laws relevant today?
- Rebels – should we embrace or challenge authority?
- Is life Nasty, Brutish and Short'?



In Y9 I will learn:

- How does Christianity explain evil?
- Is our brain designed to believe in a God?
- Does religious experience prove God exists?
- Census: How has the landscape of belief changed in Britain?
- How should nature and resources be treated?
- Are the women of the bible victims or victors?

What do we study in Y8 Philosophy?

Year 8 Philosophy

Students are encouraged to ask the BIG questions about themselves, their lives and the world around them.

Autumn Term

What is Philosophy?

Building on our Y7 study into Philosophical ideas. We learn from the Greeks until the modern day. We will evaluate the impact of these ideas on the way we think and act.

Rites of Passage:

What events take place in your life when you are a certain age? We'll look across the world and across faiths at different rites of passage and the reasons for them.

Spring Term

What does it mean to be a Muslim in Britain in 2024?

An investigation into the beliefs and practices of Islam. We look at how Muslims in Britain have to fit these around their lives in the UK. We evaluate how difficult it is to practice Islam in a Western country.

Is life 'Nasty, Brutish and Short'?

In 1660, Thomas Hobbes argued that humans are naturally selfish and that without laws, life would be 'nasty, brutish and short'. We test his ideas by looking at other worldviews and evaluate whether he was correct.

How will I be assessed?

At the start of each lesson and via homework
You will be assessed at the end of each unit on knowledge and evaluative skills

Summer Term

What does it mean to be a chosen people?

An investigation into the beliefs and practices of the Jewish faith. We compare different ideas about what it means to be Jewish. We evaluate ideas of loss and struggle.

Why does suffering happen?

If there is a God, why does He allow us to suffer? Why do people die from disease or disaster? We look at this age-old question and look at how different faiths justify suffering. We look at non-religious views and compare them to religious views.

In Y7 I learnt:

- How do people form worldviews?
- Why are covenants important?
- Who are the prophets in Abrahamic faiths?
- How is Jesus important to different religions?
- What is dharma and how is it practiced
- How do Sikhs promote equality?



In Y9 I will learn:

- What do we mean by Good?
- What is the relationship between humans and nature?
- What are religious and philosophical views on Crime and Punishment?
- Does God exist?
- What might a future religion look like?

What do we study in Y9 Philosophy?

Year 9 Philosophy

Students are encouraged to ask the BIG questions about themselves, their lives and the world around them.

Autumn Term

What is the relationship between humans and nature?

In this unit we investigate different religious and non-religious worldviews on topics such as climate, animal testing, use of resources and the effectiveness of activism. We evaluate whether humans should dominate or live with nature.

Does God exist?

In this unit we will study established arguments for and against the existence of God. We will look at this from a range of viewpoints across Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Spring Term

What are philosophical and religious views on crime and punishment?

In this unit we look at different ideas about the causes of crime. We ask if punishment should exist and for what purpose. We evaluate whether the death penalty should be reinstated in the UK.

How will I be assessed?

At the start of each lesson and via homework
You will be assessed at the end of each unit on knowledge and evaluative skills

Summer Term

Ethics: How do we decide what is Good?

In this unit we will use a philosophical lens to consider what we mean by good. We will examine various ethical answers given indifferent situations. We will conclude by weighing up the issue of suffering in the world

Is war ever justified?

We look at philosophical and religious explanations for war and conflict. We debate whether war can ever be Just. We will look at past and current events to bring our study a sense of real application.

In Y7 I learnt:

- How do people form worldviews?
- Why are covenants important?
- Who are the prophets in Abrahamic faiths?
- How is Jesus important to different religions?
- What is dharma and how is it practiced
- How do Sikhs promote equality?



In Y8 I learnt:

- What other key philosophical ideas are there?
- What are Rites of Passage?
- Is life Nasty, Brutish and Short?
- What does it mean to be a Muslim in the UK?
- Why does suffering happen?
- What does it mean to be a chosen people?