

Stepney Green Sixth Form. Philosophy and Ethics. Curriculum Statement

Intent

We are committed to ensuring that Philosophy, Ethics and Developments in Christianity is a challenging, inspiring, and engaging course. We want our sixth form students to develop their levels of religious literacy, conceptual understanding and be able to articulate their ideas about religion, beliefs and spirituality. Our curriculum enables our students to become confident learners and encourages them to ask questions about beliefs and practices and respectfully challenge different viewpoints. Studying Philosophy and Ethics at Stepney Green College enables our students to be thoughtful members of a diverse, modern and plural society.

Our curriculum encourages learners to

- develop their interest in a rigorous study of religion and belief and relate to the wider world
- develop knowledge and understanding appropriate to a specialist study of religion
- develop an understanding and appreciation of religious thought and its contribution to individuals, communities and societies
- adopt an enquiring, critical and reflective approach to the study of religion
- reflect on and develop their own values, opinions and attitudes in the light of their study.

Our two assessment objectives

AO1: Demonstrating knowledge and understanding of religion and belief including;

- religious, philosophical and/or ethical thought and teaching
- influence of beliefs, teachings and practices on individuals, communities and societies
- cause and significance of similarities and differences in belief, teaching and practice
- approaches to the study of religion and belief

AO2: Analyse and evaluate aspects of, and approaches to, religion and belief, including their significance, influence and study.

In order to meet these objectives students, learn the course content and then demonstrate their knowledge using skills such as evaluation.

Implementation

Content

All learners will study three components; Philosophy of religion, Religion and ethics and Developments in Christianity.

In Philosophy of religion learners will study philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief. These include arguments regarding the existence or non-existence of God, the nature and influence of religious experience and the problems of evil and suffering. They will also explore philosophical language and thought, through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers, illustrated in issues or debates in the philosophy of religion. Religion and ethics is characterised by the study of ethical language and thought, with exploration of key concepts and the works of influential thinkers.

Ethical theory will also be applied to issues of importance; namely euthanasia, business ethics, and sexual ethics.

Developments in religious thought provides an opportunity for the systematic study of Christianity. This will include the exploration of religious beliefs, values, teachings and practices that shape religious identity, as well as sources of wisdom and authority. Also central are the ways in which religious traditions have developed over time, and religious responses to challenges and significant contemporary social issues.

Teaching and learning

This course is taught to our students in a range of engaging ways. Students deploy skills needed to understand, interpret and evaluate religious texts and stories. We implement these through the engaging scheme of works.

Oracy skills are practised by students in a range of ways including through structured debates and presentations which supports them when they are required to argue and evaluate arguments aswell as preparing them for the future.

Reading comprehension strategies focus on the learner's understanding of written text which aids them to work on the skill of analysing. Students are taught a range of techniques which enable them to comprehend the meaning of what they read. These include inferring the meaning from context, summarising or identifying key points and monitoring their own comprehension and identifying difficulties themselves.

Collaborative learning is at the heart of our subject, we provide many opportunities for students to work together on activities where students participate on collective tasks that have been clearly assigned. This may also be completed through students working on separate tasks which then contributes to a common overall outcome.

A range of extra-curricular activities are offered to students including an annual trip to Rome, careers advice, question and answer sessions with members of faith groups and attendance to lectures/seminars at different Universities.

Assessment

Feedback is a key feature of the course. It redirects and refocuses learner's actions to achieve their goals. Teachers work closely to support students with their specific and individual needs in order to ensure they progress and succeed.

Our assessments take into account the range of skills, knowledge and understanding needed to make progression. Students are assessed throughout the course in a similar way to the actual AS and A level exams.

Impact

Our A level in Religious Studies provides a coherent and thought-provoking programme of study. Students develop their understanding and appreciation of religious beliefs and teachings, as well as the disciplines of ethics and the philosophy of religion.

The impact of the course on the student as an individual aims to engage learners thoroughly and develop an interest in Religious Studies which extends beyond the classroom and can be applied to the world around them. It develops their confidence in public speaking and ensures they speak with empathy also with sensitivity in mind. It ensures they articulate themselves well.

The ALPs grades achieved in Religious Studies A level are consistently high and in the top 25% in the UK.

Career planning

The skills student perfect can be applied to so many different types of careers. An understanding of religion helps translate into an understand the world around us, as religion is a major force in contemporary politics, societies and cultures, just as it has been throughout history.

- Ability to evaluate current affairs from a critical perspective
- Ability to assess the impact of religion in the contemporary world

- An understanding and appreciation of human cultural, social and religious diversity
- An understanding of the multi-faceted nature of human interactions
- Research skills that facilitate the study and appreciation of diverse cultures
- An understanding of social patterns, both in a historical and contemporary context
- Specific knowledge of the teachings and philosophies of various religions

Other transferable skills

- A fundamental cultural literacy
- Research skills, including data gathering and direct observation
- Able to interpret and express your position on perplexing phenomena
- Critical intelligence and skills in intellectual analysis
- Ability to empathize with your fellow human being in order to understand his or her perspective