

Why study Philosophy?

'The unexamined life is not worth living'. The ancient Greek philosopher Socrates challenges us all to look further than what life presents us; to search for a deeper meaning and understanding. This subject provides the tools and opportunity to do this. 'Philosophy' means 'love of wisdom'. It explores questions about the ultimate nature of knowledge, reality and existence, considered by humans since our conscious awakening.

Whether you become a lawyer, doctor, business leader or prime minister it is essential that you can think critically and logically. Philosophy teaches you to think – it is a rigorous discipline and can make a profound difference to your own development as a person. If you like a challenge, then this is the subject for you!

What will you be learning?

The course is divided into four units that cover a wide range of questions.

Epistemology: *Is it possible to think of something which can't be experienced through the senses? What is knowledge and what can we know? Is there an 'ultimate reality' out there? Is belief in anything other than what we physically experience illogical and unreasonable?*

Moral Philosophy: *Is goodness simply a matter of emotion and opinion? How do we solve moral dilemmas? What do we mean by good? Are some actions wrong in themselves? Is it ever right to lie?*

God: *Can the existence of God be disproven? What can we say about God? Does the existence of the universe show that God must exist? Is there too much suffering for God to be real?*

The Mind: *What is the mind and how does the mental interact with the physical? Are the mind and body the same? Can we be sure that other minds exist? Could there be a zombie world? To what extent do minds exist? Do we exist as separate minds, unable to share our ideas and knowledge?*

What are the lessons like?

Lessons are designed in a way to really make you think. You will take part in a lot of debate and discussion as well as creative activities, group work, seminar, presentations and research. Some of the work involves a study of particular philosophical text extracts, teasing out the arguments within them and considering how you can challenge their reasoning.

What can it lead to?

The skills Philosophy teaches you are in high demand across the board. They are wide ranging and applicable in most areas. In a nutshell, doing philosophy can make a significant contribution to any job that requires you to think well, that is clearly and rigorously. Big business—the city

firms, the banks, the management consultancies, the chartered accountants—are enthusiastic about people who've done philosophy, because they know how to problem solve.

Interestingly, Philosophy is a subject studied by most of our past Prime Ministers! It provides the foundational knowledge for students who enter politics, law and the civil service. Journalism is also a logical career path, since you have to be able to write well and present ideas logically and clearly. The Medical profession and scientific industries also hold Philosophy in high esteem as it teaches you the ability to make justified conclusions when facing challenging questions.

Want to know more?

To find out more about the course and discuss your suitability please contact M.Montgomery@qes.org.uk or P.Rushton@qes.org.uk