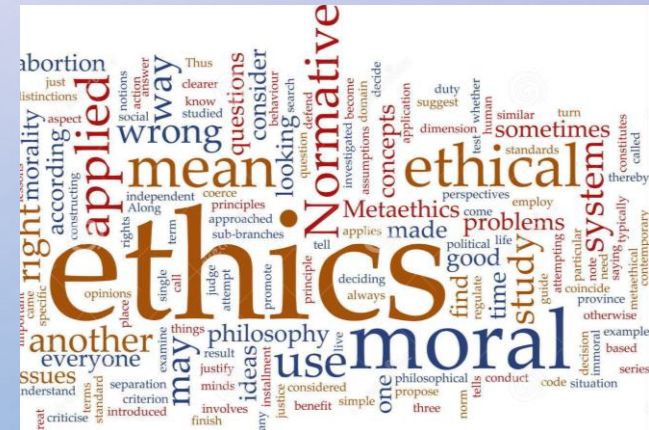




# ST WILFRID'S



# RELIGIOUS STUDIES COURSE

## OUR EXAM BOARD

OCR

## OUR COURSE TOPICS:

PHILOSOPHY

ETHICS

DEVELOPMENTS IN CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

## HOW MUCH IS EACH WORTH?

33.3%

## HOW AM I ASSESSED?

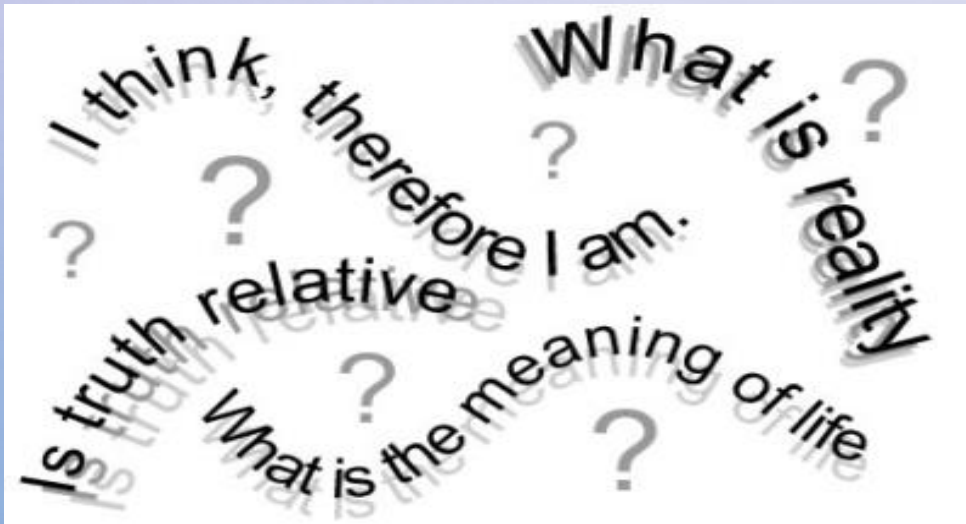
3 X 2-HOUR EXAMS IN WHICH YOU MUST WRITE 3 ESSAYS OUT OF A CHOICE OF 4. THERE IS NO COURSEWORK.

# PHILOSOPHY

Year One	Year Two
Ancient Philosophical Influences	The Nature & Attributes of God.
Soul, Mind & Body	Religious Language- Negative, Analogical, Symbolic.
Arguments based on Observation	21 <sup>st</sup> Century perspectives of Religious Language * Philosophical Comparisons.
Arguments based on Reason	
Religious Experience	
The Problem of Evil	

# WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

- PHILOSOPHY IS A DISCIPLINE THAT IS MORE CONCERNED WITH ASKING THE RIGHT QUESTIONS RATHER THAN GETTING THE RIGHT ANSWERS!
- PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION EXAMINES LOGICAL LINES OF ARGUMENT TO SEE IF RELIGIOUS CLAIMS STAND UP TO ACADEMIC SCRUTINY.

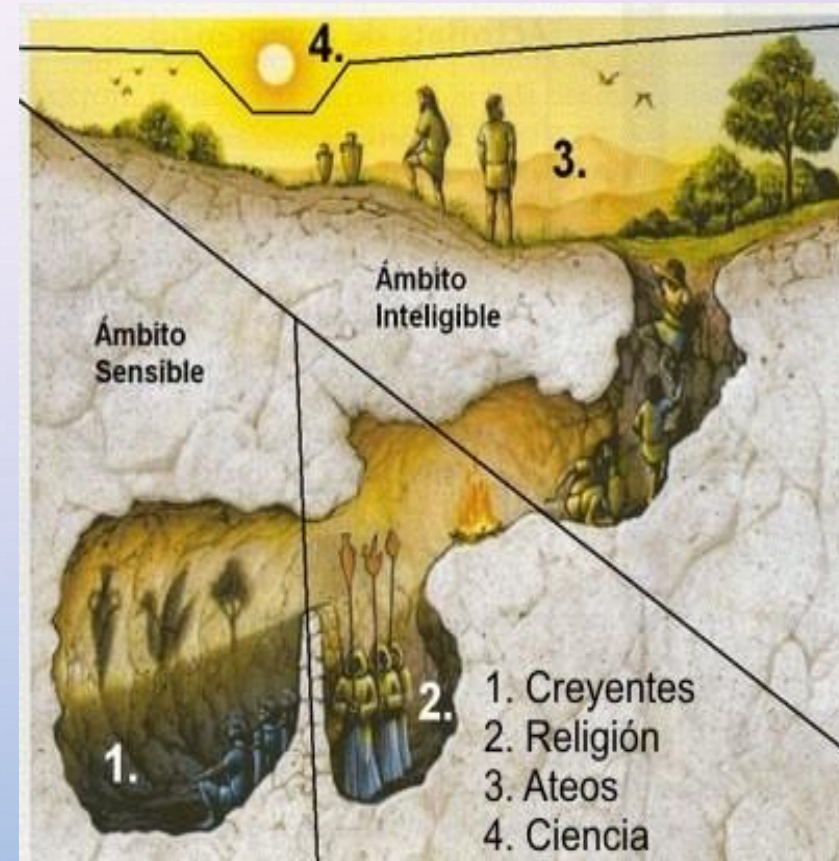


# PHILOSOPHICAL THINKING

- DO I EXIST REALLY?
- HOW CAN I BE SURE I REALLY EXIST?
- DOES GOD EXIST?
- DOES RELIGION CAUSE MORE HARM THAN GOOD?
- HAS SCIENCE DISPROVED RELIGION?
- DO PSYCHOLOGY AND SOCIOLOGY DISPROVE RELIGION?

# PLATO'S CAVE

- PLATO IS A FAMOUS ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHER WHO WAS VERY CONCERNED WITH THE NATURE OF REALITY.
- HE WROTE A FAMOUS ANALOGY ABOUT A PRISONERS LOCKED IN A CAVE . THE CAVE IS THE ONLY WORLD THE PRISONERS HAVE EVER KNOWN. THIS IS THEIR REALITY. ONE DAY A PRISONER ESCAPES AND DISCOVERS THE REAL WORLD OUTSIDE. PLATO BELIEVED OUR WORLD IS LIKE THE CAVE AND THERE IS A TRUER, MORE REAL WORLD OUTSIDE OF THIS ONE. A WORLD ONLY PHILOSOPHERS CAN ACCESS!



## OTHER PHILOSOPHY TOPICS...

- IS IT POSSIBLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH GOD?
- ARE VISIONS AND VOICES REAL OR PSYCHOTIC?
- ARE GROUP EXPERIENCES MORE RELIABLE THAN INDIVIDUAL ONES?
- IS IT POSSIBLE TO AGE AFTER DEATH IF YOU CONTINUE TO LIVE?
- IS GOD EVIL FOR ALLOWING MIRACLES TO HAPPEN?

# ETHICS

Year One	Year Two
Natural Law	Meta-ethical theory
Situation Ethics	Conscience
Kantian Ethics	Sexual Ethics
Utilitarianism	
Euthanasia	
Business Ethics	

## ETHICAL THINKING

- IS THIS THE FACE OF EVIL?
- 1963 – 1965 MYRA HINDLEY KILLED FIVE CHILDREN (10-17) WITH HER PARTNER IAN BRADY
- ALL THE CHILDREN WERE SEXUALLY ASSAULTED AND TORTURED BEFORE THEIR MURDER



- IAN BRADY AND MYRA HINDLEY TAPE RECORDED THE TORTURE AND MURDER OF THEIR YOUNG VICTIMS.
- THE MOTHER OF ONE VICTIM HAD TO LISTEN TO THE VOICE OF HER DAUGHTER SCREAMING AS SHE WAS BEING MURDERED IN ORDER TO IDENTIFY HER DAUGHTER



- DR HAROLD SHIPMAN MURDERED AT LEAST 236 OF HIS PATIENTS OVER 24 YEARS BETWEEN 1974 AND 1998.
- HE WAS AND REMAINS BRITAIN'S MOST PROLIFIC SERIAL KILLER.
- HE COMMITTED SUICIDE IN PRISON IN JANUARY 2004



- IRMA GRESE WAS AN OFFICER IN THE SS.
- SHE WAS ACCUSED OF PERSONALLY KILLING 30 PRISONERS A DAY AT AUSCHWITZ.
- SHE SET DOGS ON SOME, BEAT OTHERS TO DEATH AND WHIPPED OTHERS.
- SHE WAS ACCUSED OF HAVING A LAMPSHADE MADE FROM THE SKIN OF ONE OF HER VICTIMS.



# AN ETHICAL QUESTION

- HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE ACTIONS OF THESE PEOPLE?
  - ...EVIL
  - ...WICKED
  - ...BAD
  - ...NAUGHTY
  - ...UNKIND
  - ...INAPPROPRIATE
- 
- WHAT DO WORDS LIKE 'EVIL' AND 'BAD' ACTUALLY MEAN?

## BUT ETHICS VARY DON'T THEY?

DIFFERENT GROUPS OF PEOPLE HAVE VERY DIFFERENT IDEAS AND BELIEFS ABOUT GOOD, BAD, RIGHT AND WRONG. THIS IS CALLED THEIR ETHICS. E.G.....

IN UK ALCOHOL IS SEEN AS SOMETHING WHICH IS GOOD. WE LIKE TO GO TO THE PUB AND HAVE A DRINK. IN SAUDI ARABIA, ALL ALCOHOL IS FORBIDDEN BY LAW.

SOLDIERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO KILL PEOPLE. BUT THEY ARE NOT ALLOWED TO DO THIS UNLESS UNDER ORDERS TO DO SO. (MILITARY ETHICS).

THE ELDERLY IN INUIT CULTURE ARE TAKEN TO SEA, AND SET ADRIFT ON A FLOATING ICEBERG. THIS IS SEEN AS THE RIGHT THING TO DO WHEN YOUNGER MEMBERS COULD STARVE DUE TO LACK OF FOOD.

# DEVELOPMENTS IN CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

Year One	Year Two
Augustine's teaching on human nature	Religious Pluralism & Theology
Death & Afterlife	Religious Pluralism & Society
Knowledge of Gods Existence	Gender & Society
The person of Jesus Christ	Gender & Theology
Christian Moral Principles	The challenge of secularism
Christian Moral Actions	Liberation theology & Marx

# WHAT IS DEVELOPMENT IN CHRISTIAN THOUGHT?

- DEVELOPMENT IN CHRISTIAN THOUGHT ASKS QUESTIONS RAISED BY AND ABOUT RELIGION.
- QUESTIONS LIKE WHAT IS THE NATURE AND PURPOSE OF HUMAN LIFE? WHO IS CHRIST?
- WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO LIVE A CHRISTIAN LIFE? ETC ARE ASKED

# CHRISTIANITY & FEMINISM

- WHAT ARE THESE VIDEOS DEMONSTRATING? DOES CHRISTIANITY IN SOME WAY DO THE SAME?
- [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=NWU44AQF0II&PBJRELOAD=10](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NWU44AQF0II&PBJRELOAD=10)
- [HTTPS://WWW.YOUTUBE.COM/WATCH?V=LAL5DIISIM0&LIST=PLTL0ADKOWVHDO6Q7QVKN TAXUOCRLWMYBP&INDEX=3](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAL5DIISIM0&LIST=PLTL0ADKOWVHDO6Q7QVKN TAXUOCRLWMYBP&INDEX=3)



# GOD IS NEITHER MALE NOR FEMALE



SHOULD IMAGES OF GOD REFLECT  
THIS?

# POSSIBLE ESSAY QUESTIONS

- **PHILOSOPHY:** PLATO'S FORM OF THE GOOD HAS A LOT IN COMMON WITH ARISTOTLE'S PRIME MOVER. DISCUSS 40 MARKS
- **ETHICS:** KANTIAN ETHICS ARE HELPFUL FOR MORAL DECISION MAKING IN EVERY KIND OF CONTEXT. DISCUS 40 MARKS
- **DCT:** DISCUSS CRITICALLY THE VIEW THAT CHRISTIANS CAN DISCOVER TRUTHS ABOUT GOD USING HUMAN REASON. 40 MARKS

# SKILLS DEVELOPED

INDEPENDENT LEARNING

DEBATE

ORGANSIATION

ESSAY WRITING

RESEARCH

DEVLEOPMENT OF  
ARGUMENTS

# WHY PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS?

- YOU WILL FIND ETHICAL AND PHILOSOPHICAL QUESTIONS INTERESTING AND ENJOY THE INTELLECTUAL CHALLENGE OF THEM.
- YOU ARE LIKELY TO DO VERY WELL WHEN YOU DO YOUR EXAMS. ANECDOTAL RESEARCH SUGGESTS A STRONG LINK BETWEEN ENJOYMENT AND PERFORMANCE AT A LEVEL.

# I THINK THEREFORE I EARN...

- [HTTPS://WWW.THEGUARDIAN.COM/EDUCATION/2007/NOV/20/CHOOSINGADEGREE.HIGH  
EREDUCATION](https://www.theguardian.com/education/2007/nov/20/choosingadegree.highereducation)

# CAREERS/PROGRESSION

CITY BANKING

TEACHING

JOURNALISM

ECONOMICS

POLITICS

ADVERTISING

ACCOUNTANCY

LAW

POLICE FORCE

# REwarding Careers

**Lawyer:**  
"My degree in philosophy required me to develop skills in critical thinking and analysis. This helps me to argue cases effectively, to use good questioning techniques and to see both sides of an argument."



**Catering Manager:**  
"Food and fasting are important aspects of most religions and in order to ensure an inclusive environment where no-one is offended, I understand the important dietary laws really well"



**Midwife:**  
"Learning about religion has made me more tolerant, allowing me to overcome barriers. In all areas of my working life; nursing, midwifery, counselling and public health, being able to communicate effectively without fear and being tolerant have always helped me."



# REwarding Careers

**Director of Operations:**  
"I lead a team of 300 people and RS skills have helped me to set a culture of tolerance and fairness in how we work with one another and the communities we serve. RS has also helped me to present convincing arguments in order to bid for extra funding to help vulnerable people."



**Sales:**  
"My study of Divinity gives me a competitive edge because I understand people and their customs. In practice, I deal with Sharia Law-compliant finance products for Muslim customers and have a prayer room available for them on the sales premises."



**Police Officer:**  
"The RS skills I gained include tolerance and respect; important qualities in police work, and the critical thinking skills I learned allow me to consider different or conflicting views in an open-minded and fair way."



### CHARITY

WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH A SECTOR THAT HAS GROWN A HUGE AMOUNT IN RECENT YEARS, OFTEN REFERRED TO AS 'THE THIRD SECTOR' (AFTER THE PUBLIC AND PRIVATE)? CHARITY WORK ATTRACTS PEOPLE THAT PLACE VALUES HIGH AND HAVE INTERESTS IN IMPROVING AREAS OF SOCIETY.

#### CAREER PATHS

- » AID WORKER
- » FUNDRAISING ADMINISTRATOR
- » CRISIS SUPPORT WORKER
- » IMPACT AND EVALUATION OFFICER

### LAW

DO YOU HAVE A STRONG SENSE OF WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG? INTERESTED IN HELPING OTHER PEOPLE FIGHT THEIR CORNER? LAW IS ONE OF THE TRADITIONAL THREE PROFESSIONS (ALONG WITH MEDICINE AND RELIGION) YOU CAN GO INTO, AND THERE ARE MANY AREAS YOU CAN SPECIALISE IN.

#### CAREER PATHS

- » LEGAL ASSISTANT
- » PARALEGAL
- » LEGAL SECRETARY
- » COURT USHER

### HEALTHCARE

HEALTHCARE OFFERS YOU REWARDING AND VARIED WORK CARING FOR PEOPLE AND IMPROVING THEIR HEALTH. WHILE IT TAKES A FAIR AMOUNT OF TRAINING, A HEALTHCARE PROFESSION WILL BE WORTHWHILE IN TERMS OF JOB SATISFACTION, SALARY AND THE ABILITY TO RELOCATE.

#### CAREER PATHS

- » CARE WORKER
- » SUPPORT WORKER
- » COUNSELLOR
- » AID WORKER

## WHERE CAN R.E. TAKE YOUR CAREER?

### MEDIA

THIS SECTOR IS ALL ABOUT SPREADING THE WORD, TELLING STORIES AND ENTERTAINING. IF YOU WANT YOUR VOICE TO BE HEARD, OR TO HELP PRODUCE MEDIA FOR ALL SORTS OF AUDIENCES.

#### CAREER PATHS

- » PHOTOGRAPHER
- » COPYWRITER
- » CAMPAIGNS COORDINATOR
- » RESEARCH CO-ORDINATOR

### EDUCATION

THIS REFERS TO EDUCATION OUTSIDE OF SCHOOLS AND INCLUDES PUPIL REFERRAL UNITS, HOSPITAL SCHOOLS, HOME TEACHING SERVICES, TUITION CENTRES AND E-LEARNING CENTRES, AMONG OTHERS.

#### CAREER PATHS

- » NURSERY WORKER
- » TEACHING ASSISTANT
- » SUPPORT WORKER
- » RECOVERY SUPPORT WORKER

# PUPIL VOICE

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS ENABLED ME TO LEARN ABOUT NEW CONCEPTS WHICH I HAD NOT STUDIED BEFORE AND DEVELOPED MY ESSAY WRITING SKILLS, WHICH WILL BE USEFUL IN MY FUTURE. DISCUSSING EACH TOPIC WAS INTERESTING AND ALLOWED A RANGE OF VIEWS FROM MANY PERSPECTIVES.

DESPITE, BEING A CHALLENGING A LEVEL I ENJOYED STUDYING IT AND BELIEVE THE SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE I HAVE LEARNED ARE VALUABLE AS THEY HELP TO CHANGE OUR WAY OF THINKING.

JC YEAR 13

# PUPIL VOICE

I WOULD SAY I ENJOYED THIS SUBJECT IN THE WAY THAT ALL THE TOPICS FIT TOGETHER AS YOU LEARN MORE OF THEM AND SO IT'S CONSTANTLY BUILDING ON YOUR KNOWLEDGE. ALSO I FOUND THIS REWARDING AS THE MORE THEORIES AND TOPICS I LEARNED, THE BETTER MY GRADES WERE EVEN WHEN I THOUGHT I WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO PRODUCE A GOOD ESSAY.

MY ONE PIECE OF ADVICE WOULD BE: TO BE PATIENT IN TERMS OF GRADES EVERYTHING WILL BECOME A LOT CLEARER WHEN YOU PIECE THE PARTS OF THE SUBJECT TOGETHER!

CW YEAR 13

## PUPIL VOICE

I ENJOY PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS AT A LEVEL BECAUSE IT ALLOWS YOU TO LOOK AT MANY DIFFERENT TOPICS THAT ARE NEW AND INTERESTING. PERSONALLY, I REALLY LIKED LOOKING AT RELIGIOUS EXPERIENCE, THE IDEAS OF PLATO AND ARISTOTLE AND SITUATION ETHICS.

I THINK IT HELPS YOU TO QUESTION AND LOOK AT MANY PERSPECTIVES OF MORAL ISSUES AND IDEAS ABOUT THE WORLD.

AB YEAR 12

# PUPIL VOICE

I'D SAY THAT IT'S A LOT OF HARD WORK BUT IT'S WORTH IT WHEN YOU START TO SEE THE EFFORT PAYING OFF AND THE GRADES START TO SLOWLY GO UP.

IT WON'T ALL CLICK STRAIGHT AWAY BUT IT'LL START TO EVENTUALLY, AND THAT NOT EVERYONE WILL COME OUT WITH AS AND BS.

ALSO THAT MOST OF THE TOPICS ARE REALLY INTERESTING SO THE LESSONS AREN'T BORING, AND THERE'S A LOT OF CONVERSATION - IT ISN'T JUST LISTENING AND WRITING.

## PUPIL VOICE

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS AT A-LEVEL HAS GIVEN ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO UNDERSTAND THE VALUE OF CURIOSITY AND CONSIDERATION. THE THOUGHT-PROVOKING CONTENT FROM TOPICS WITHIN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION WAS COMPLIMENTED BY THE WIDER ETHICAL AWARENESS GAINED IN THE RELIGION AND ETHICS' SECTION OF THIS COURSE. PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS PUSHED ME TO CHALLENGE MY CURRENT BELIEFS AND QUESTION EVERYTHING. THIS BECAME REFLECTIVE THROUGH THE GROWTH OF MY ESSAY WRITING AS IT FORCED ME TO STRENGTHEN MY CRITICAL ANALYSIS ABILITIES. COLLECTIVELY, I GAINED A MUCH GREATER INSIGHT INTO THE WORLD AROUND ME, WHICH I CONFIDENTLY BELIEVE THAT I WILL TAKE THIS NEWFOUND FACULTY OF WONDER WITH ME IN MY FUTURE.

# PUPIL VOICE

IT'S DEFINITELY A SUBJECT THAT REQUIRES EFFORT AND TIME AND CAN BE CHALLENGING BUT ONCE YOU FINISH THE FIRST FEW TOPICS, IT GETS EASIER TO UNDERSTAND EACH THEORY AND HOW TO APPROACH THE TOPIC IN AN ESSAY.

YOU JUST HAVE TO BE PATIENT WITH THE GRADES AND NOT GIVE UP EASILY.

TRY AND MAKE REVISION STYLE NOTES IN THE ACTUAL LESSON RATHER THAN JUST WRITING STUFF DOWN, THAT WAY IT'S EASIER TO MAKE REVISION TOOLS.

SC YEAR 13

## PUPIL VOICE

I THINK THAT PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS IS AN INTERESTING SUBJECT AS IT ALLOWS US TO EXPLORE IDEAS AROUND MORALITY, WHAT TRUE KNOWLEDGE IS AND GOD. THESE AREAS ARE ALL RELEVANT TO EACH INDIVIDUAL AND THE DISCUSSION BASED NATURE OF THE COURSE GAVE US OPPORTUNITIES TO UNDERSTAND DIFFERENT PERSPECTIVES.

I ALSO DEVELOPED TRANSFERABLE SKILLS LIKE FORMING AN ARGUMENT WHICH WERE USEFUL IN MY OTHERS SUBJECTS. WHILST IT IS A DIFFICULT SUBJECT TO GRASP AT FIRST WITH PERSEVERANCE IT IS AN INTRIGUING AND USEFUL COURSE WHICH I REALLY ENJOYED.

RC YEAR 13

# PUPIL VOICE

I LOVED STUDYING RE THROUGHOUT YEAR 10 AND 11 SO FELT P AND E WOULD BE A GREAT OPTION TO TAKE AT SIXTH FORM.

MY FAVOURITE TOPIC IN PHILOSOPHY IS ARGUMENTS BASED ON OBSERVATION WHICH IS ABOUT HOW THE WORLD WAS CREATED, WHICH IS EXTREMELY INTERESTING AS NO ONE REALLY KNOWS HOW THE WORLD CAME ABOUT AND THIS TOPIC MAKES YOU QUESTION WHAT YOUR BELIEF IS ABOUT THE CREATION OF THE WORLD .

MY FAVOURITE ETHICS TOPIC IS SITUATION ETHICS WHICH IS ALL ABOUT IF AN ACTION IS THE MOST LOVING THING, IT IS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. THIS TOPIC IS MY FAVOURITE BECAUSE IT MAKES YOU QUESTION WHAT ACTUALLY IS A BAD ACTION, AS IF IT HAS THE MOST LOVING OUTCOME THE ACTION IS VALUED AS DOING THE RIGHT THING. SO THIS TOPICS MAKES YOU QUESTION IF THINGS LIKE STEALING TO HELP SOMEONE , IS ACTUALLY WRONG OR NOT AND IF IT CAN BE JUSTIFIED.

MY ADVICE TO YEAR 11 , IS ONCE YOU'VE HAD A LESSON GO BACK OVER THE NOTES , AS ALL THE TOPICS IN P AND E ARE EXTREMELY INTERESTING BUT AS WITH ALL A LEVELS THERE IS A LOT OF CONTENT !

CS YEAR 12