



IB PHILOSOPHY

Contact Person - Mrs S. Godfrey

GROUP 3: PHILOSOPHY

ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS:

Grade B in English Language and/or Religious Studies.
Also essential is an open and enquiring mind

COURSE AIMS & OBJECTIVES:

The IB Philosophy programme deals with issues that are profound, complex and challenging for humanity. It aims to be inclusive and to tackle a wide range of issues from a philosophical perspective. The programme explores the fundamental questions that people have asked since the beginning of time, and confronts new problems arising within contemporary society. What exists? What is it to be a human being? What can we know? How do I know what is the right thing to do? These questions are explored through an examination of themes and texts.

The emphasis is very much on 'doing' philosophy which requires intellectual rigour, an open and critical mind, and a willingness to attempt to understand alternative views. At the core of philosophy lies a concern with truth and clarity of understanding achieved through critical analysis and systematic thinking, careful analysis of arguments close reading. Philosophy, in the context of IB, is not just an international activity, it is beyond internationalism, and fosters tolerance by transcending ethnic and religious boundaries.

COURSE CONTENT

PART 1 : THEMES

- Core Theme : What is a human being ?
The study of the core theme is compulsory
- Optional Themes : SL students would study the Philosophy of Religion and HL students would study both the Philosophy of Religion and the Theories and Problems of Ethics

PART 2 : PRESCRIBED TEXTS

SL & HL students will be required to study *The Republic, Books IV – IX* by Plato

SCHEME OF ASSESSMENT:

HIGHER LEVEL

External Assessment (80%)

Paper 1: Themes Two compulsory sections, A and B

Section A: Questions based on the Core Theme

Section B: Questions based on the Optional Themes

Paper 2: Texts Essay question on the Prescribed Text

Paper 3: Unseen Text

Internal Assessment (Coursework - 20%)

A philosophical analysis of non-philosophical material

STANDARD LEVEL

External Assessment (70%)

Paper 1: Themes Two compulsory sections, A and B

Section A: Questions based on the Core Theme

Section B: Essay questions based on the Optional Theme

Paper 2: Texts Essay question on the prescribed text

Internal Assessment (Coursework - 30%)

A philosophical analysis of non-philosophical material

CAREERS AND THE VALUE OF PHILOSOPHY:

Critical analysis, coherent thought, careful decision-making and clear presentation are important skills for Philosophy but also in themselves. They serve as valuable preparation for many careers. At the end of the course each student will be able to think independently and will have a respect for reasoned argument. Many employers value flexibility of thought and the capacity of marshalling arguments in a coherent and compelling manner which this course offers.