

<b>SUBJECT:</b> IB Standard Philosophy	
<b>HEAD OF DEPARTMENT:</b> Miss C Dawton	<b>EXAM BOARD AND SYLLABUS NUMBER:</b> N/A

<p><b>SYNOPSIS OF CONTENT:</b></p> <p><b>Core theme:</b> This covers questions like ‘What is a person?’ ‘What is the difference between animals, humans and machines?’ The ideas of Plato, Kierkegaard, Descartes, Sartre and existentialism, scientific understandings of what it means to be a human being (e.g. Dawkins), and do we have a soul?</p> <p><b>Ethics:</b> How do we decide between right and wrong? Normative ethical theories, such as Utilitarianism and Kantian Ethics, as well as meta-ethical approaches.</p> <p><b>Philosophical texts:</b> An in-depth study of the Meditations of Descartes. You will also have to deal with unseen texts which include themes such as debate over what it means to “be philosophical”, what are the best methods to study philosophy, what is philosophy?</p>	<p><b>WHY STUDY THIS SUBJECT?</b></p> <p>Philosophy means "love of wisdom" in Greek, and the subject deals with many of the deepest questions that affect us as humans. Why are we here? What separates us from the animals? Is there a God? What is truth?</p> <p>In studying Philosophy, one can develop debating skills and critical thinking skills.</p>
	<p><b>SELF STUDY ADVICE/USEFUL WEBSITES:</b></p> <p><a href="http://www.philosophypages.com">www.philosophypages.com</a>  <a href="http://www.philosophynow.org">www.philosophynow.org</a>  <a href="http://www.philosophybites.com/">http://www.philosophybites.com/</a>  <a href="http://www.thebookoflife.org/">http://www.thebookoflife.org/</a>  <a href="http://www.iep.utm.edu">www.iep.utm.edu</a></p>
<p><b>HOW IS IT ASSESSED?</b></p> <p><b>Paper 1:</b> - 2 hours 30 minutes Three essays</p> <p><b>Paper 2:</b> - 1 hour Two essays</p> <p><b>Internal Assessment</b> Philosophical analysis of a non-philosophical stimulus, such as a book, film, song or painting of the student's choice.</p>	<p><b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION / CAREER OPPORTUNITIES:</b></p> <p>Philosophical thinking skills are considered useful in any form of further study, and give an excellent grounding of a number of ideas not only relevant in many careers, but also in becoming a well-rounded person.</p> <p><b>SPECIFIC MATRICULATION REQUIREMENTS:</b></p> <p>In addition to the Sixth Form matriculation requirements, you will need to have at least a grade 5 or above in your Humanities GCSE subject.</p>