



Philosophy and Ethics A Level

Section A: Philosophy of religion

- Arguments for the existence of God
- Verifying religious experience
- Religious Language
- Miracles

Section B: Ethics and religion

- Normative ethical theories
- The application of natural moral law, situation ethics and virtue ethics to: issues of non-human life and death
- Free will and moral responsibility

Component 2: Study of religion and dialogues

Buddhism

- Sources of wisdom and authority
- Good conduct and key moral principles
- Buddhism, gender and sexuality
- Buddhism and the challenge of secularisation

Section B: Dialogues The dialogue between Buddhism and philosophy Beliefs and teachings about:

- Self, death and afterlife
- The truth claims of other religions

The following issues, and the impact of the discussion on religious belief past and present, should be considered:

- How far the belief is reasonable - that is based on reason and/or consistent with reason.
- The relevance of philosophical enquiry for religious faith, with particular reference to the debate about the nature of faith as 'belief in' or 'belief that'.

Section C: Dialogues The dialogue between Buddhism and ethics

- Buddhist responses to the following approaches to moral decision-making in the light of key Buddhist moral principles:

- deontological, with reference to Kant.
- teleological and consequential, with reference to Bentham.
- character based, with reference to virtue ethics.

- Buddhist responses to: the issues of human life and death and issues of animal life and death prescribed for study; theft and lying; marriage; homosexuality and transgender issues; genetic engineering.

The impact of other ethical perspectives and ethical studies on Buddhist views about these issues, both past and present.

This may include challenges to and support for Buddhist views; compatibility of Buddhist views with those of other ethical perspectives; the relative strengths and weaknesses of Buddhist perspectives and the other ethical perspectives studied on these issues; the implications of criticisms of Buddhist ethical teaching for the religion as a whole and its sources of authority