Course:	**Philosophy and Ethics (RS)**
Specification and code:	H173 (AS) H573 (A-level)
Exam Board website:	https://ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/religious-studies-h173-h573-from-2016/
Course outline:	You will be studying Philosophy at Beaminster and Ethics at Colfox. We split the teaching of the unit 'Developments of Religious Thought – Christianity' **Philosophy Outline:** Get ready to dive into the *biggest* questions humanity has ever asked. Who are we? What are we made of – a soul, a mind, a body? You'll explore ancient philosophical giants like Plato and Aristotle, and tackle modern debates about the existence of God, the meaning of life, and the power of religious experience. We'll also face off with one of philosophy's greatest puzzles – if God exists, why is there evil in the world? Oh, and ever wondered how the words we use *shape* what we believe? You'll discover that too. **Ethics Outline:** Is it ever right to break the rules to do the right thing? Would you pull the lever in the trolley problem? You'll explore thought-provoking ethical theories like Utilitarianism (the greatest good for the greatest number), Kantian Ethics (doing what's *right*, no matter what), Natural Moral Law, and Situation Ethics. Then, you'll put them to the test in real-world issues like euthanasia and business ethics. This isn't just theory – it's about tackling the moral dilemmas of our time. **Developments in Thought Outline:** You won't be told what to believe – but you *will* be challenged to understand how religious ideas have shaped the world for the past 2000 years. Is human nature good or evil? Why do religious traditions hold the views they do today? You'll explore how Christianity has influenced modern British society, from our legal system to our education, and why these beliefs still matter. Expect lively debates, deep discussions, and a whole new way of seeing the world around you.
Reading:	**<u>Ethics</u>** • Any OCR approved Philosophy and Ethics textbook. • Being Human – Peter Vardy • The Puzzle of Ethics – Peter Vardy **<u>Philosophy:</u>** • The Puzzle of God – Peter Vardy • Any OCR approved Philosophy and Ethics text book. • A Thinker's Guide to God - Vardy
Summer Task:	**Ethics: Real-World Morality in Action** Ethics isn't just something you learn in books – it's something you live every day. Whether you're standing up for what you believe in, questioning what's right, or navigating the grey areas of life, ethics is at the heart of it. This subject invites you to explore some seriously powerful questions: • Where do our moral values come from – religion, reason, culture, psychology? • Do we all have the same sense of right and wrong? • Do ethics even *exist* beyond human opinion? **Your Ethical Challenge (Summer Task):** Get ready to explore how ethics plays out in the real world. 1. **Investigate Businesses**: Which companies are seen as ethical or unethical – and why? You might look at environmental impact, worker rights, animal testing, or honesty in advertising.

2. **Explore Euthanasia**: A deeply personal and controversial topic. What are the arguments *for* and *against* it – legally, morally, and emotionally?
3. **Global Attitudes to Homosexuality**: How do laws and attitudes toward homosexuality differ across the world – and what does that tell us about culture, religion, and human rights?

Development of Christian Thought: Big Ideas That Changed the World

In this part of the course, you'll examine how Christian thought has responded to the real world – from feminism and social justice to science and secularism. You'll see how religion isn't just a set of beliefs, but a powerful force that's shaped (and been shaped by) the modern world.

Your Thought-Provoking Task (Summer Task):

1. **What is Feminism?** – Find out what it means, how it developed, and explore three major feminists who challenged tradition and changed perspectives.
2. **What is Liberation Theology?** – Discover how Christian thought became a radical call for justice in the face of poverty and oppression.
3. **What is Secularism?** – Investigate how society changes when religion loses influence. Is this a good thing or a loss of something deeper?

Philosophy: Reality, Truth, and Mind-Blowing Ideas

What *is* reality? Is what you see and feel actually *true*? Or are we all just trapped in our own versions of the truth?

Welcome to the mind-expanding world of philosophy, where we'll start by exploring Plato's famous *Allegory of the Cave*. This ancient story may completely change how you think about the world around you.

Watch & Wonder
Start here: Plato's Cave animation
Then go further:

1. **Create Your Own Illustrated Cave** – Label and design an image of Plato's cave with the key features:
   - Prisoners
   - Shadows
   - The Outside World
   - The Sun
   - The Prisoner Who Escapes and Returns
2. **Interpret the Symbols** – What do these things *represent* in real life? Is this about truth, society, education… or something deeper?

Watch More: Films like *The Matrix* and *Inception* explore similar philosophical themes – illusions, truth, and freedom. Watch them and be prepared to never see reality the same way again.