



# Sandwell Academy

## Advanced General Certificate of Education

### PHILOSOPHY, ETHICS AND DCT (RE)

It is impossible to avoid religion and ethics in our ever changing world. Religion impacts on everyday life and ethics, our everyday decisions. Both universities and employers are aware that students of Religious Education have developed and are able to utilise skills that can be applied to different situations. They know that you:

- Are able to formulate an opinion and present it accurately and fully.
- Are able to discuss and debate ideas on ethical and moral issues.
- Are aware and can understand different religious viewpoints and form balanced judgements on religious issues.
- Are able to use higher order critical thinking skills.

#### SPECIFIC ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- Grade 6 or above in GCSE English and a Grade 6 in a Humanities subject.
- No prior knowledge of Religious Studies is required. However, the opportunity is provided for candidates who have studied Religious Studies at GCSE (either as a Full or Short Course) to build on knowledge, understanding and skills gained at that level.

#### COURSE DETAILS

OCR Syllabus

**Year 1** – You still study three units as follows:

##### **Philosophy**

In this unit you will be discussing how sources of wisdom and authority are used and interpreted to underpin beliefs and teachings. You will debate the influence of these beliefs and teachings on individuals, communities and societies. Evaluating, analysing and breaking down arguments will be key. You will assess the causes and significance of similarities and difference in understanding of beliefs and teachings in Christianity. Key ideas will be Arguments for the existence of God, Ancient Greek influences and Philosophical issues such as the Problem of Evil and Religious Experience.

##### **Ethics**

In this unit you will focus on normative ethical theories and the application of natural moral law, situation ethics and utilitarianism. You will have the opportunity to discuss and be assessed on your understanding of religious and non-religious ideas about the application of these theories to euthanasia and business ethics.

## **Development in Christian Thought**

In this unit you will focus on the Development and influence of Christian theology. You will have the opportunity to discuss the influence of Augustine on Church doctrine, the person of Christ, implications of a belief in Life after Death and links to real life examples such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer.

## **Year 2**

You will study a range of topics in Year 2. You will evaluate ideas about the Attributes and Nature of God and Religious Language. You will then discuss the nature and role of religion in society today. Further to this, you will explain Meta-Ethical theories and how this links to Conscience and Sexual Ethics. There will also be a section on the dialogue between philosophy and religion and how religion is influenced by philosophy of religion, in relation to the issues studied.

## **Assessment**

Assessment will be 3 exams of 2 hours each. (Philosophy of Religion, Ethics and Religion and Developments in Christian Thought). This is done at the end of Year 2.

