

YEAR 10 – PHILOSOPHY

This subject aims to develop students' critical and analytical thinking skills through the investigation of key philosophical concepts, issues and problems. Students will explore ideas related to personal identity and free will through a wide range of visual texts such as *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind* and *Interstellar*, as well as written texts such as Ted Chiang's *The Lifecycle of Software Objects* and Phillip K. Dick's *Minority Report*. The elective is designed to develop students' higher order thinking, problem solving skills, critical analysis and reflective thinking and writing skills.

UNIT 1

In this unit students will answer the metaphysical questions such as 'what is it that makes you 'you' over time?' and 'Is our personal identity an illusion?' Many philosophers have discussed the issue of identity over time and students will study theories in the categories listed below. Examining how these philosophical theories about the self might have an impact on our lives today, students will be required to reflect on certain contemporary debates, such as the issue of life after death and Artificial Intelligence.

AREA OF STUDY

- The Ship of Theseus thought experiment
- The Same Body Theory
- The Same Brain Theory
- The Same Soul/Mind Theory
- The Memory/Mental Connections Theory
- The Illusion of Personal Identity Theory
- Derek Parfitt's Personal Identity Thought Experiment
- Artificial Intelligence and Personal Identity

OUTCOMES

- Analyse philosophical viewpoints and arguments in relation to Personal Identity.
- Outline and explain specific evaluative arguments in regards to personal identity.
- Select and utilise relevant evidence/ examples to analyse and evaluate philosophical viewpoints.
- Show clear understanding of the specific demands of a variety of question types.
- Compare philosophical arguments and viewpoints

UNIT 2

In this unit, students will answer the metaphysical question of 'does free will exist?' Philosophers have divided the issue of free will into three areas; hard determinism, soft determinism/compatibilism, and free will.

Students will study philosophical and scientific theories in regards to these categories and will be required to reflect upon contemporary ideas regarding moral responsibility and scientific advancement.

AREA OF STUDY

- Hard Determinism and the Illusion of Free Will
- How Can We Save Free Will? Compatibilism
- The Problem with Denying Free Will - Moral Responsibility

OUTCOMES

- Analyse philosophical viewpoints and arguments in relation to free will & determinism.
- Outline and explain specific evaluative arguments in regards to ideas surrounding free will and determinism.
- Select and utilise relevant evidence/ examples to analyse and evaluate philosophical viewpoints.
- Show clear understanding of the specific demands of a variety of question types.
- Compare philosophical arguments and viewpoints.