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| **What will we be learning?**OCR GCE Religious StudiesH573/01 | **Why this? Why now?**In this first year of the two-year course, the focus is on Philosophical thought, The Existence of God, God and the World. | **Key Words:**AllegoryAnalogyFormsPrime- moverRationalismEmpiricismMaterialSpiritualTeleologicalCosmological Ontological A prioriA posterioriSynthetic AnalyticMysticalConversionNuminousNatural /Moral evilFree-willTheodicy |
| **What will we learn?**This component explores philosophical issues and questions raised by religion and belief. *Ancient philosophical influences* provides important foundational knowledge for the study of philosophy of religion. This and *Soul, mind and body* enable the exploration of philosophical language and thought through significant concepts and the works of key thinkers. We will critically analyse three contrasting arguments regarding the existence of God. Such arguments are a fundamental element of philosophy of religion, as well as key to the personal beliefs of many individuals. We will also introduce different types of religious experience, and will encourage discussion and debate the significance and meaning of such experiences, as well as how they can shape religious belief. The problem of evil and suffering will also be explored. Debated for millennia, this issue is still relevant and problematic for many today.  |
| **What opportunities are there for wider study?**The Philosophy course is one third of the full OCR H573 GCE Religious Studies course, along with Religion and Ethics and Buddhism.Opportunities to attend online conferences and webinars come up throughout the course. |
| **How will I be assessed?**There will be a number of essays set through the year, marked to the OCR GCE assessment levels. These will begin as untimed essays with notes and will move to timed essays without notes by the end of the year. There will also be a Philosophy question as part of the Year 12 internal exam in the Summer term. |