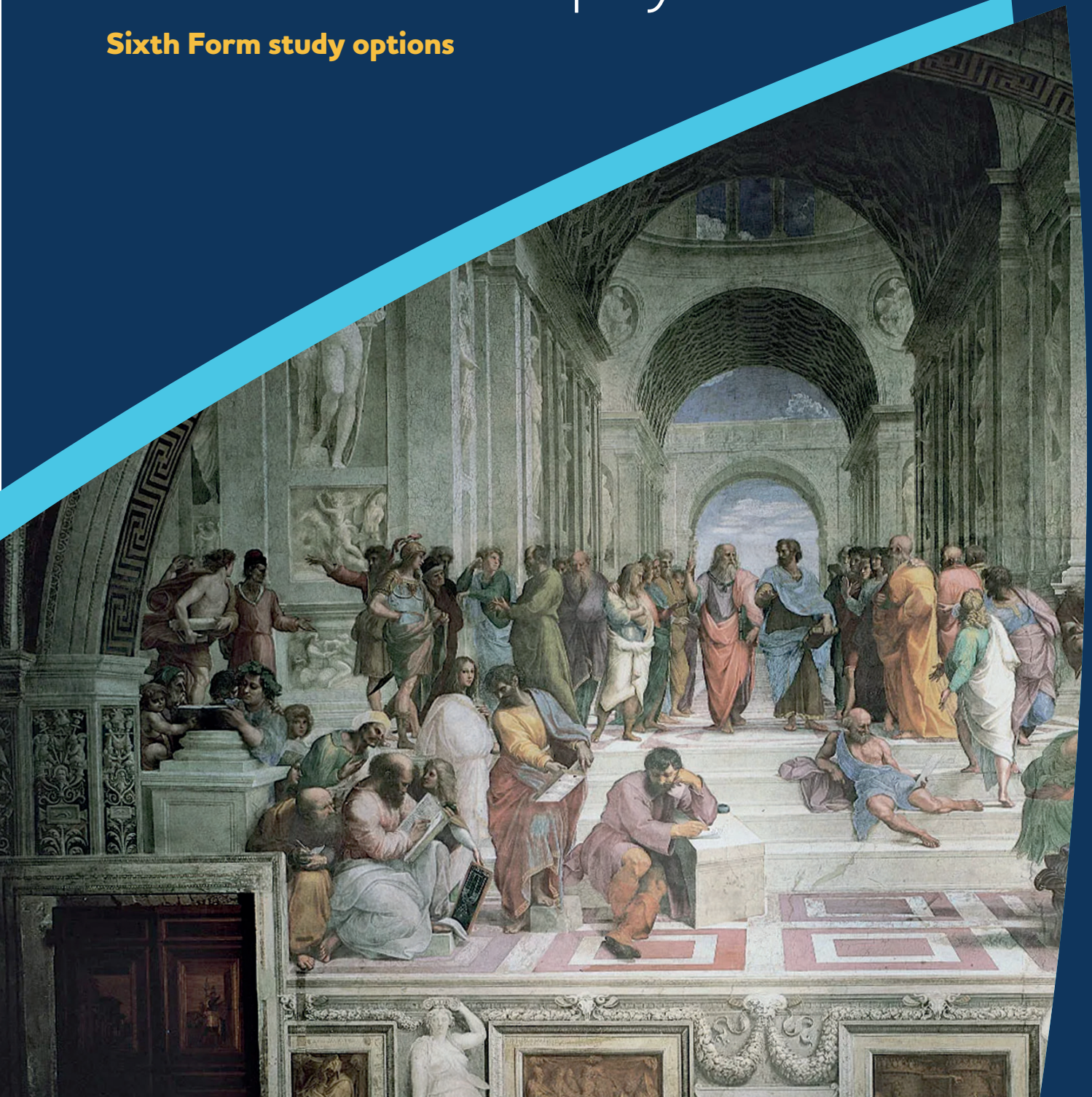




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# A Level Philosophy

**Sixth Form study options**



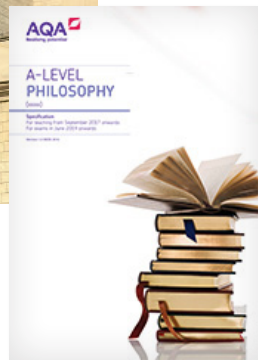


# A Level Philosophy

## AQA A Level Philosophy 7172

Philosophy is an ancient subject that presents those who study it with the opportunity to expand their understanding of reality. It seeks answers to the biggest questions, and requires its students to be able to

understand and analyse philosophical claims and constructs. It is a subject that will build foundations that you will be able to continue into degree level study. Above all, it is a subject that will ask you to think deeply about the world around you, and question things that you have never considered before!



## The Course:

Pupils study four areas of Philosophy during the two year course:

1. Epistemology – The study of knowledge, of what it actually is. This includes: Perception as a Source of Knowledge; Reason as a Source of Knowledge and The Limits of Knowledge. Students will study scholars such as Locke, Descartes, Berkeley and Russell.
2. Moral Philosophy – How do we know right and wrong? *Can* we know right and wrong? This unit includes study of Normative Ethics, including Utilitarianism, Kantian Ethics and Virtue Ethics; Applied Ethics focused on stealing, simulated killing, eating animals and telling lies; and Meta-Ethics which considers the origins of moral principles and focuses on Moral Realism and Anti-Realism.
3. Metaphysics of God – Does God exist? Is it even possible to know for sure? These classic philosophical quandries are studied in this unit. It includes study of different arguments for the existence of God, including Ontological, Teleological and Cosmological versions; it also looks at the Problem of Evil as defended by Plantinga and Hick; and also on Religious Language as debated by Logical Positivists such as AJ Ayer.
4. Metaphysics of Mind – How can we say with any certainty that we are here, or indeed what we actually are? This unit looks at Dualism, Materialism, Physicalism and Functionalism; and looks at work by those such as Gilbert Ryle and Descartes.





### Assessment

There are two papers, both 3 hours long. Each paper follows the same format, and asks questions designed to test both the students knowledge of the subject, and their ability to analyse philosophical concepts and write according to philosophical conventions.

### Teaching Staff

Dr Willis is Head of RS. He completed his doctorate at Exeter University in 2014.

Miss Pallas-Brown is Head of Sixth Form and teacher of RS and Philosophy, and an Oxford graduate.

### Next Steps: Going further with Philosophy

Studying Philosophy is an excellent way of demonstrating your ability to write analytically, to engage with complex ideas and abstract concepts, and to consider challenging ideas in a balanced manner. Philosophy is a popular subject amongst university departments for these reasons, and can help you with a number of degree subjects, including Theology, Politics and History, as well as a number of diverse careers including journalism, law, teaching and public relations.

Newly returned to the Sixth Form offering, Philosophy is a unique opportunity to develop your verbal reasoning and technical writing, all while having the opportunity to engage in the types of debates and discussion that have fascinated societies for thousands of years.

Oxford High School  
Belbroughton Road  
Oxford, OX2 6XA

**[oxfordhigh.gdst.net](http://oxfordhigh.gdst.net)**



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