Supporting students of **A Level Philosophy** at Toot Hill College

Philosophy at Toot Hill College will develop critical reasoning, literacy and communication skills. Topics allow students to explore where our knowledge comes from and its limits, moral issues, the difference between the mind and the brain, and the concept and nature of God.

The Philosophy department will support all students to achieve their full potential and teachers value the support of parents and carers as students’ progress towards the external examinations.

Below is some important information and frequently asked questions designed to inform parents and carers. Please contact teaching staff or the Head of Department if you have further questions.

**Department Staff:**

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| **Exam board** | **Course title and code** | **Course Structure** | **Key dates** | **Final exams** |
| AQA | A Level Philosophy  7172 | **Paper 1:** Epistemology & Moral Philosophy  **Paper 2:** Metaphysics of God & Metaphysics of Mind  Year 12:   * Epistemology (DHT) * Metaphysics of God (LMU)   Year 13:   * Moral Philosophy (DHT) * Metaphysics of Mind (LMU) | **October in class assessment**:   * Tripartite view of Knowledge * The concept and nature of God   **November Assessments:**   * Epistemology * Metaphysics of God   **February Assessments (full paper):**   * Epistemology * Metaphysics of God | **Paper 1: Epistemology & Moral Philosophy**  3 hours (50% weighting)  **Paper 2: Metaphysics of God & Metaphysics of Mind**  3 hours (50% weighting)  Each exam will consist of 2 sections (see above) with 5 questions in each section.  The questions within each section have a common structure made up of 3, 5, 5, 12 and 25 marks.  All sections are marked out of 50, with each exam having a total of 100 marks available |

**Frequently asked questions**

**1. Where can I find past papers and mark schemes?**

You can find all past paper questions, mark schemes and examiners reports here: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/philosophy/a-level/philosophy-7172/assessment-resources>. Very recent papers are not in the public domain, but you will be able to access sufficient examples. Teachers will set as many past questions as they can, to enable your student to practice as much as possible.

Practice questions can also be found in revision guides. As a department, we recommend:

* My Revision Notes: AQA A-Level Philosophy Paper 1 Epistemology & Moral Philosophy, Hodder Education
* My Revision Notes: AQA A-Level Philosophy Paper 2 Metaphysics of God & Metaphysics of Mind, Hodder Education

**2. Does my student know where to access guidance when answering exam questions?**

The AQA website also has examiner reports that students will find useful in understanding common misconceptions: <https://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/philosophy/a-level/philosophy-7172/assessment-resources?f.Resource+type%7C6=Examiner+reports>

In class, we complete regular assessments and exam questions. Exam guidance can also be found in revision guides.

**3. What happens if my student has gaps in their knowledge due to absence?**

All resources are regularly uploaded on to the files section of teams regularly. Students can catch up with any work if they are absent using these resources. If students are unsure, or a hard copy of resources is required, students should contact their classroom teacher.

**4. What resources are recommended to support my student?**

PPTs and resources from the lesson are available on the ‘Files’ sections of Teams. We also recommend the Hodder Education revision guides (listed above) which can be ordered through Amazon. Please contact the Head f Department id you have difficulty sourcing these.

Wider reading and exam practice questions should be completed at home regularly to develop key skills and knowledge.

**5. What else can I do to support my student at home?**

Parents/carers could direct students to lesson resources, or download exam practice questions from the AQA website. You could also time students when writing longer answer questions. Parents/carers could also test their knowledge of key concepts by using flash cards.

**6. How can I help with revision?**

Encourage your student to engage with the materials mentioned above. If you are able to take part in quizzing your student (if they have made flashcards or are using online quizzes), this will give them some variation to their revision and works well as a revision technique. Encouraging your student to focus on the areas of the courses that they feel less confident with will also be beneficial.

**7. What can I do if I need more support or my student is needing more support?**

Please contact your class teacher or Head of Departm