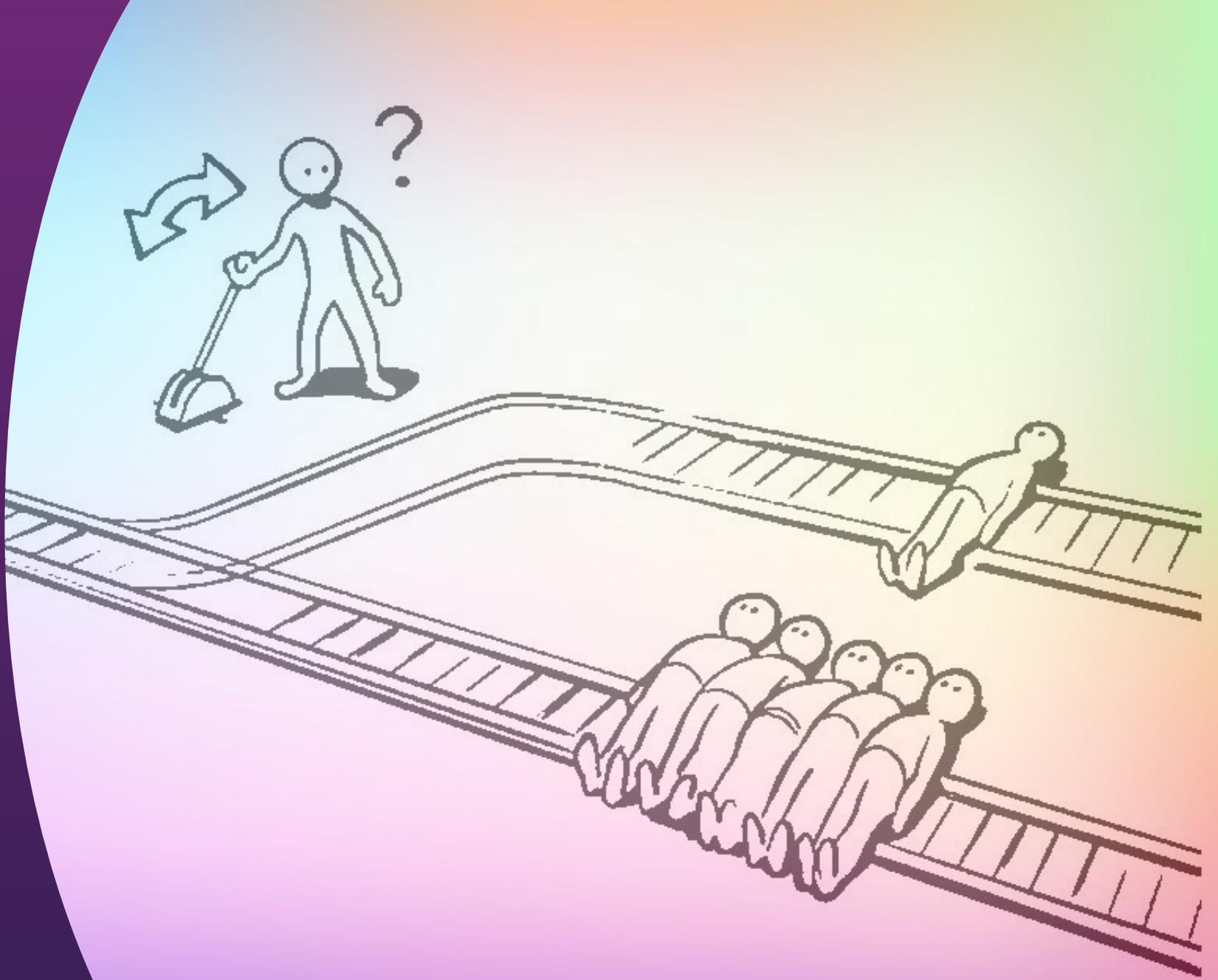


GCSE

ETHICS AND PHILOSOPHY



What is Ethics and Philosophy?

- Ethics and Philosophy is an academic discipline that is well regarded by top universities
- The course develops **analytical** and **evaluation skills** as well as **critical thinking**, in addition to **oratory skills** through **debate** and **discussion**
- Ethics and Philosophy is **highly regarded** for those wanting to go into the fields of **medicine**, **law** and **public services**



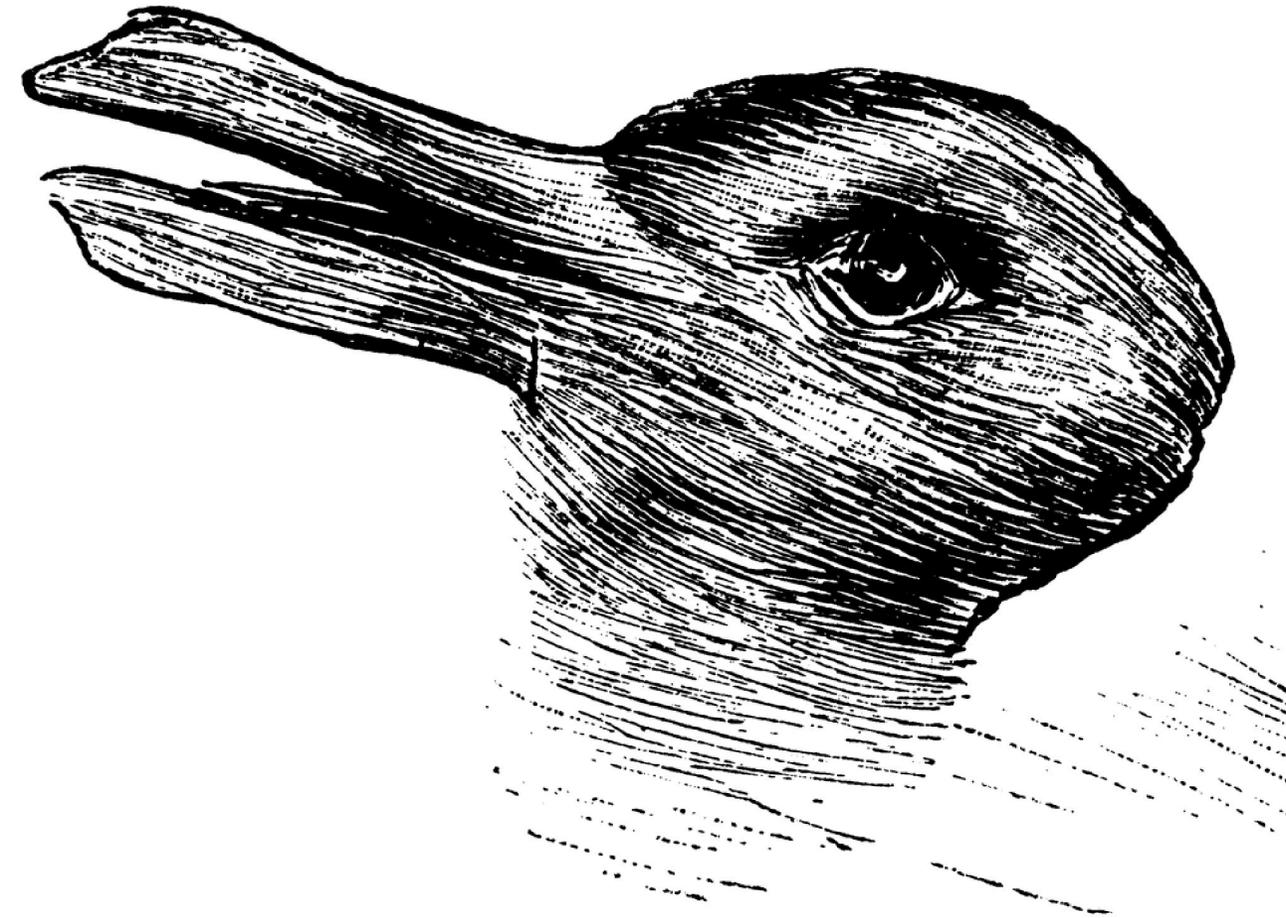
Course Overview and structure.

Specification: AQA Religious Studies A

Two religions are studied in depth; **Christianity** and **Buddhism** through to their philosophical and structural differences, allowing students to compare and contrast.

Four themes are studied that explore a range of **ethical** issues in depth. The themes studied are:

- Relationships and Families
- Religion and Life
- Religion and Crime
- Human Rights and Social Justice



Assessment

GCSE Ethics and Philosophy is a **GCSE** award graded from 1-9. This consists of **two** examinations lasting **1 hour 45 mins each**.

It is assessed **entirely via written exams**, which take place at the conclusion of year 11.

Both exams will focus on the content and skills taught throughout the course. This includes:

- Exam one will assess a students **knowledge of religion** and its **relevant ethics** and **philosophies**.
- Exam two will assess a **students ability to discuss various ethical** and **philosophical themes**.

The questions build from one mark through to a twelve mark evaluation statement. For example, 'divorce is never right' evaluate this statement (12 marks).

0 2 Theme B: religion and life

0 2 . 1 Which one of the following means being gently and painlessly put to death? [1 mark]

- A Stewardship.
- B Euthanasia.
- C Evolution.
- D Dominion.

0 2 . 2 Give two religious beliefs about pollution. [2 marks]

0 2 . 3 Explain two similar religious beliefs about the use of animals for food. In your answer you must refer to one or more religious traditions. [4 marks]

0 2 . 4 Explain two religious beliefs about the afterlife. Refer to sacred writings or another source of religious belief and teaching in your answer. [5 marks]

0 2 . 5 'Evolution proves that religious beliefs about the origins of life are wrong.'

Evaluate this statement.

In your answer you:

- should give reasoned arguments in support of this statement
- should give reasoned arguments to support a different point of view
- should refer to religious arguments
- may refer to non-religious arguments
- should reach a justified conclusion.

[12 marks]
[+ 3 SPaG marks]

Exam paper one: The Study of Religions

Students will study the **beliefs, teachings, and practices** of **two** religions. At NSG we focus on **Christianity** and **Buddhism**.

Each religion's section includes:

- Key beliefs
- Teachings from sacred texts
- Religious practices (worship, festivals, rituals, etc.)
- Moral and ethical teachings

The exam consists of four questions per religion, covering:

- Beliefs and teachings
- Practices
- A specific ethical or philosophical issue within the religion
- Analysis and evaluation of religious beliefs and views (12-mark question)



Exam paper two: Thematic Studies (Ethical & Philosophical Issues)

Students will explore **four** themes within their second exam; including:

- Relationship and families (gender equality, marriage, divorce)
- Religion and Life (abortion, euthanasia, origins of the world)
- Religion, Crime and punishment (forgiveness, the death penalty)
- Human rights and justice (discrimination disability and poverty)



Key Career Skills

- **Analytical & critical thinking skills**
- **Comprehension of abstract concepts**
- **Leadership and research skills**
- **Collaboration**
- **Debating**
- **Communication skills**

Future career opportunities

Studying **Ethics and Philosophy** can lead to a career in;

- **Medical careers:** An ability to consider ethical principles
- **Public Services (police, prison officer, firefighter or teacher):** Having awareness of cultural and religious diversity to ensure parity and equality.
- **Politics or Law:** Critical analysis and debating skills are invaluable in these areas.

Future study opportunities

Studying **Ethics and Philosophy** can lead to further study in;

- Any relevant subject at Level 3 (A level), for example at NSG we offer:
 - **A Level Sociology**
 - **A Level History**
 - **A Level Psychology**
- Other subjects, such as;
 - **Law**
 - **Protected services**
 - **A combination of philosophy with ethics, politics or religion.**