



Department:	RPE	
Year 9 Course summary:		
Thinking more critically...		
<p>Ethics: The ethics topic is designed to challenge students to think critically. Ethics is too often seen as an <u>ar</u>rational pursuit where your intuition or feelings are the best guide, but this is not good critical thinking. Topics include: normative ethics; animal rights; medical ethics (including abortion and euthanasia); sexual ethics; and distributive justice. Students are assessed via a 'viva voce' where they will be pushed to justify positions on ethical issues.</p>		
<p>Religion: Students are introduced to topical debates concerning the connections between religion and war, and religion and sexism. They are also asked to research, and present upon, a specific topic. For example, a student might choose a topic like 'The purpose of prayer for Sunni Muslims'. The presentation and the questions that follow will form their second assessment point.</p>		
<p><u>Reflective journal:</u> Throughout the Ethics topic, students are expected to keep a reflective journal that is completed once a week. This enables them to record arguments (good or bad) that they hear in the lessons and track any changes in their own viewpoints/values. This document also forms the basis for discussion in the oral assessment.</p>		
<p><u>Skills:</u> Students continue to develop critical thinking skills, in particular students are encouraged use hypothetical reasoning. They also still need to assess which arguments are the most persuasive and which are less cogent. Learning the skills of academic research and assessing the quality of sources/evidence are the focus of the summer term.</p>		
IST Assessments:		
Michaelmas	Lent	Summer
Ethics Viva (and reflective journal)		Religion Presentation