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| Department: | RPE | |
| Year 10 Course summary: | | |
| Mastering the art of argument... | | |
| <p>Philosophy: The content of the Michaelmas term is based around philosophical questions that cover topics such as: scepticism, the problem of induction, personal identity, the existence of a soul, miracles, aesthetics, stoicism. Here arguments are laid out in a more explicit manner so that students can understand the structure of good arguments and spot fallacies more easily. The content of these arguments represents a step up in complexity that students should find challenging. No question is worth answering if there is a simple answer.</p> | | |
| <p>Critical Thinking: Here students are taught, explicitly, some of the skills that they have been using implicitly for the last few years. The content includes: spotting reasons and spotting assumptions; spotting fallacies and appeals; the misrepresentation of evidence; overcoming cognitive biases.</p> | | |
| <p>The Research Project: The final project is the culmination of much of the work that students have been doing in Key Stage 4. They will come up with a research question (linked to Religion or Philosophy) and complete the necessary reading/research. They will then present their findings to the class and defend their thesis from challenge.</p> | | |
| <p><u>Skills:</u> The ability to present on research is a key academic skill, as it the ability to defend a position or thesis. The research will need to be critical/discursive and based on thorough reading. Students will need to assess how reliable their sources are, assess the value of the evidence they find and then assess the arguments that are used to apply any evidence; they will also need to know what makes a good research question. Academic research skills, using the internet as well as libraries as a source, is also a focus. The critical thinking skills that are taught explicitly in the Lent term are also relevant to their project since they must employ the methodology they have been using in lessons for the last few years. They should be able to show how their arguments '<i>win out</i>' over others, thereby arriving at a well-founded conclusion.</p> | | |
| IST Assessments: | | |
| Michaelmas | Lent | Summer |
| Philosophy Viva (and reflective journal) | | The Research Project |