

## Year 12 Overview of Scheme of Work for AS Ethics Autumn Term

Please note that there may be some slight variation on topics taught in which weeks dependent on each class taught.  
Teachers sometimes change the order in which the topics are taught.

Week	Topic titles	Key Assessments
1	<u>Ethical theories</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past examination question on the topic of absolute and relative morality.</li> <li>• Past examination question on the topic of Natural law.</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is Ethics?</li> </ul>	
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is meant by absolutist and relativist morality?</li> </ul>	
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does it mean to call an ethical theory absolutist and objective?</li> </ul>	
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What does it mean to call an ethical theory relativist and subjective?</li> </ul>	
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do the terms deontological and teleological mean?</li> </ul>	
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evaluate the above concepts. What are their strengths and weaknesses?</li> </ul>	
8	<u>Natural law</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the origins of Aquinas' Natural Law? Examine Aristotle's idea of purpose and how it relates to natural Law.</li> <li>• Examine Aquinas' ideas of purpose and perfection.</li> <li>• How is reason used to discover Natural Law?</li> <li>• What are the primary and secondary precepts and how do they relate to natural Law?</li> <li>• Evaluate natural Law. What are its strength and weaknesses?</li> </ul>	
9	<u>Kantian ethics</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past examination question on the topic of Kantian ethics.</li> <li>• Past examination question on the topic of Utilitarianism.</li> </ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Who was Kant?</li> </ul>	
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the difference between the Categorical and the Hypothetical Imperatives?</li> </ul>	
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine the various formulations of the Categorical Imperative;</li> </ul>	
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyse Kant's understanding of the universalisation of maxims;</li> </ul>	
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did Kant mean by duty?</li> </ul>	
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine Kant's ideas of the moral law, good will and the summum bonum.</li> <li>• Evaluate natural Law. What are its strength and weaknesses?</li> </ul>	

### Utilitarianism

- What is meant by Utilitarianism?
- Examine the classical forms of Utilitarianism from Bentham and Mill.
- What is meant by the principle of Utility?
- What are the differences between the Utilitarianism of Bentham and of Mill?
- What is the Hedonic Calculus? including higher and lower pleasures and quantity v. quality.
- What is meant by and Act and Rule Utilitarianism?
- Examine the theory of preference Utilitarianism of Peter Singer.
- Evaluate Utilitarianism. What are its strengths and weaknesses?

## Spring Term

Please note that there may be some slight variation on topics taught in which weeks dependent on each class taught.  
Teachers sometimes change the order in which the topics are taught.

Week	Topic titles	Key Assessments
1	<u>Religious ethics</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past examination question on the topic of Religious ethics.</li> <li>• Past examination question on the topic of the application of ethical theory to the right to a child.</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine the ethical principles of Christianity. How do Christians make moral decisions?</li> <li>• How can religion and morality be linked to or separate from each other?</li> <li>• Is morality dependant on God (Divine Command theory)?</li> <li>• How far is religious ethics absolutist or relativist?</li> <li>• How might ethical theories be considered to be religious?</li> <li>• Evaluate the above ideas. What are their strengths and weaknesses?</li> </ul>	
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9	<u>Applied ethics</u>	
10	<u>The right to a child</u>	
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the 'Sanctity of Life' and how does it apply to abortion?</li> <li>• How can we apply the concept of personhood to abortion?</li> <li>• How is the right to life applied to abortion? Examine the rights of all those involved.</li> <li>• How does the tissue of infertility relate to the right to a child?</li> <li>• How do we determine the status of the embryo?</li> <li>• Is a child a gift or a right?</li> <li>• Apply and evaluate all ethical theories studied listed to the right to a child.</li> </ul>	
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9	<u>Euthanasia</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past examination question on the topic of the application of ethical theory to Euthanasia.</li> <li>• Past examination question on the topic of the application of ethical theory to genetic engineering.</li> </ul>
10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does the 'Sanctity of Life' apply to euthanasia?</li> <li>• What is meant by 'Quality of Life' and how does it apply to euthanasia?</li> <li>• How can we apply the concept of the right to life to euthanasia?</li> <li>• Apply and evaluate all ethical theories studied listed to the issue of euthanasia.</li> </ul>	
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Genetic engineering

- What is genetic engineering?
- Examine the ethical questions raised by the different types of genetic engineering to humans, animals and plants;
- What are the issues regarding human embryo research?
- Apply and evaluate all ethical theories studied listed to the issue of genetic engineering.

## Summer Term

Please note that there may be some slight variation on topics taught in which weeks dependent on each class taught.  
Teachers sometimes change the order in which the topics are taught.

Week	Topic titles	Key Assessments
1	<u>War and peace</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What are the principles of 'Just War' and how can it be applied?</li> <li>• Examine the theories of ethical and religious pacifism.</li> <li>• Apply and evaluate all ethical theories studied listed to the issue of genetic engineering</li> <li>• Exam preparation and revision.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• External examination in June.</li> </ul>
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9	<u>Start of A2 course</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Past examination question on the topic of Meta ethics.</li> </ul>
10	<u>Meta ethics</u>	
11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is meta ethics?</li> </ul>	
12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine how different scholars understand how words like 'good', 'bad', 'right', 'wrong' are used when ethical statements are made</li> </ul>	
13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does meta-ethics differ from normative ethics?</li> </ul>	
14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is meant by cognitive and non-cognitive theories and how do they apply to ethical statements?</li> </ul>	
15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is meant by; ethical naturalism, intuitionism; emotivism and prescriptivism? How do these apply to ethical statements?</li> <li>• Evaluate the theories above. What are their strengths and weaknesses?</li> </ul>	