

Virtual Revision Conferences 2006 'In-house'

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It's 'in-house'

AS/A2 Philosophy

- featuring Senior Examiners
- hold in your school or college
- no need to travel for a revision conference

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Page

1	Index
2/3	AS Philosophy- course code VR18
4/5	A2 Philosophy- course code VR31

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AS Philosophy

Virtual Revision Conference (VR18)

with **Oliver McAdoo**, Senior Examiner.

The conference will cover, in eight fast-paced and interactive sessions, all the material covered in the AS level syllabus including:

- All key themes and arguments for each module
- An explanation of where links can be found between modules and subsequently how these links can be used to substantially lessen the revision workload
- A summary of all key criticisms of these themes and arguments
- A detailed explanation of what is required when writing a philosophy essay; the marking criteria, what the examiners look for and a model plan that can be applied to questions that could arise in an exam

The Programme

Each session includes teaching and workshop periods with handouts and lasts up to 50 minutes

Session 1: Epistemology

This session will deal with all key themes and criticisms of the following

- Empiricism and rationalism
- Scepticism (doubt): the three sceptical arguments and the *Cogito*
- Knowledge and Justification: the tripartite theory of knowledge, foundationalism and coherentism
- Knowledge and perception: Realism (naïve and indirect), idealism and phenomenalism

Session 2: Moral Philosophy

This session will deal with all key themes and criticisms of the following

- Normative ethics utilitarianism, deontology and virtue ethics
- Practical ethics: euthanasia, abortion and animal rights
- Meta-ethics: cognitivism versus non-cognitivism

Session 3: Philosophy of Religion

This session will deal with all key themes and criticisms of the following

- Religious concepts: conceptions of God and the nature of religious language
- Arguments for the existence of God: the cosmological, teleological and ontological arguments and the argument from religious experience
- Faith, reason and belief
- The implications of God's existence: good and evil, miracles and morality

Continued next page

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Oliver McAdoo M.A. (Sussex) is a philosophy lecturer, and teacher in charge of Critical thinking at a 6th form College. He is currently completing doctoral research in the philosophy of logic and has lectured in both further and higher education. He has organised and chaired conferences and training days giving papers on, amongst others things, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, the Philosophy of Neuroscience and Analytic Philosophy. He is currently senior examiner in philosophy and is in the process of completing an introductory book on The Theory of Knowledge which will be published in January 2006

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AS Philosophy Virtual Revision- continued

AS Philosophy programme continued

Session 4: Texts, Plato's *Republic*

This session will deal with all key themes and criticisms of the following

- Knowledge, belief and ignorance
- The philosopher: his status and qualities
- Democracy: the similes of the ship and the large and powerful animal
- The Forms: the sun, cave and divided line
- The Form of the Good: morality and knowledge

Session 5: Texts, Descartes *The Meditations*

This session will deal with all key themes and criticisms of the following

- Cartesian doubt: hyperbolic doubt, the three sceptical arguments and the possibility of complete deception
- Certainty and the *Cogito*
- Clear and distinct ideas and arguments for the existence of God
- The mind body distinction: the religious, epistemological and ontological distinctions
- Perception, imagination and conceptualization
- Arguments for the existence of the external world

Session 6: Text, Marx and Engels *The German Ideology*

- Hegel, Feuerbach and the young Hegelians
- Historical materialism and praxis
- The division of labour and forms of alienation
- Ideology and its material base
- Class conflict: revolution and the subsequent emergence of a communist society
- The rejection of essentialist notions of human nature, liberation and freedom
- The scientific status of Marx's account

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Session 7: Text, Sartre's *Existentialism and Humanism*

This session will deal with all key themes and criticisms of the following

- Existence precedes essence: The paper knife
- Essence precedes existence: The artisan and the inkwell
- *En soi* (in itself) versus *pour soi* conceptions of being: human versus material reality
- Freedom, choice and responsibility: universalisation and the relation of choice to value
- Anguish, abandonment and despair: the existentialist meaning of these terms
- Subjectivism, intersubjectivity and the *cogito*
- Good faith, bad faith and the possibility of moral criticism
- Criticisms of existentialism and the existentialist response

Session 8: Exam answering technique and essay writing skills

- What is the nature of a philosophy essay
- What are the marking criteria
- What will the examiners be looking for when they mark my response?
- Is there a model essay plan that can be used to answer any exam question?

A2 Philosophy

Virtual Revision Conference (VR31)

with **Oliver McAdoo, Senior Examiner**

The course will cover, in eight fast-paced sessions, all the material covered in the A2 level syllabus including:

- All key themes and arguments for each module
- An explanation of where links can be found between modules and subsequently how these links can be used to substantially lessen the revision workload
- A summary of key criticisms of these themes and arguments
- A detailed analysis of what is required when preparing students for the 'synoptic' element of the course
- A detailed explanation of what is required when writing an A2 philosophy essay; the marking criteria, what the examiners will be looking for and a model plan that can be applied to any question that could arise in an exam

The Programme

Each session includes teaching and workshop periods with handouts and lasts up to 50 minutes

Session 1: Philosophy of Mind

This session will deal with all key themes and criticisms of the following

- Approaches to mentality and the nature of 'mind'
- The mind/body problem and attempted resolutions
- Knowledge of self and self consciousness
- Knowledge of others
- Personhood

Session 2: Political Philosophy

This session will deal with all key themes and criticisms of the following

- Political Ideologies
- Freedom
- Law
- Authority
- The state

Session 3: Texts: Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics*

This session will deal with all key themes and criticisms of the following

- Eudaimonia
- Aristotle's conception of 'function' and its relation to moral goodness
- The rejection of the Form of the Good
- Moral virtue and habit
- The doctrine of the mean
- The virtues: practical and theoretical wisdom
- Voluntary, involuntary and non-voluntary action and their moral implications
- Pleasure and goodness
- Contemplation and the eudaimon

Continued next page

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A2 Philosophy Virtual Revision- continued

Session 4: Texts: Hume's *Enquiry*

This session will deal with all key themes and criticisms of the following

- Impressions and ideas
- The principles of association
- Hume's 'fork' (relations of ideas and matters of fact – the analytic/synthetic distinction)
- Belief and imagination
- Causation as constant conjunction; the role custom and repetition
- Necessary connexion (sic) and the search for its origin
- Liberty and necessity (free-will and determinism) and Hume's resolution (compatibilism)

Session 5: Texts: Mill *On Liberty*

This session will deal with all key themes and criticisms of the following

- The kind of liberty with which Mill is concerned
- Liberty and the state
- Democracy and its inherent dangers
- Civil convention and public opinion (political versus social tyranny)
- The tyranny of the majority and its relation to the above
- The harm principle and negative freedom
- Arguments for freedom of thought, expression and action and some exceptions to the rule
- The importance of truth and variety
- The value of liberty as an intrinsic (deontological) or instrumental (teleological) phenomenon
- The application of Mill's principles

Session 6: Text: Nietzsche's *Beyond Good and Evil*

This session will deal with all key themes and criticisms of the following

- Critique of past philosophers – philosophy as an expression of Self-interest
- The 'bewitchment of language'; truth and interpretation
- The correct philosophical questions
- The new philosopher and his socio-intellectual status
- The notion of 'superiority'
- The will-to-power

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- The different morality
- The three stages of morality
- Religion; self-denial and sacrifice
- The future use of religion – religion as a means not an ends
- The sceptic and the critic
- Nobility: description of value systems
- The social implications of Nietzsche's concept of noble values

Session 7: PLY6: The Synoptic Study

This session deals with handling the synoptic element of the A2 course

- What the examiners will be looking for
- Why a range of questions is better than a 'centre response'
- Complementing the comparative and comparing the complementary
- The two types of response and how they guarantee the top grades
- Matching question to student in order to guarantee the above
- Balancing time and material and finding resources
- Creating the perfect plan
- Procedure, rubric and getting the most out of the synoptic

Session 8: Exam answering technique and essay writing skills

- What is the nature of an A2 philosophy essay?
- How does an A2 response differ from an AS level one?
- What are the marking criteria?
- What will the examiners be looking for when they mark my response?