

THE PRIORY ACADEMY

**LSST**

Sixth Form Induction Day

PRE (Philosophy, Religion and Ethics)  
Taster Session



# Welcome, now get thinking...

*You witness a car crash. The wreckage is burning, but you may be able to save one of the two passengers. To your horror, you realise that one of them is your best friend and the other is a famous cancer specialist on the brink of a breakthrough for a cure for the disease. Who do you save?*

1. What would you do?
2. Why?
3. Is it the **right** thing to do?

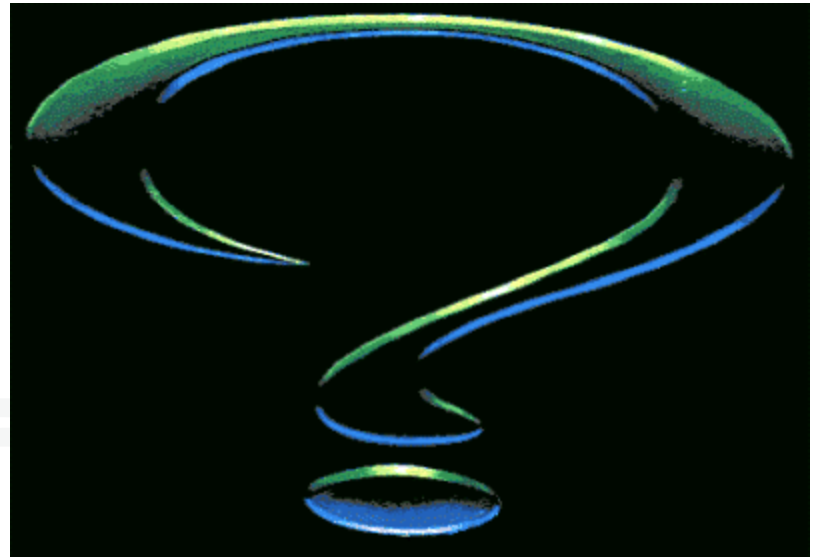


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# Scenario 1: Key ethical question

- Do the needs of the many outweigh the needs of the few?



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# Key term and theory

- **Ethics** – the principles by which people live.
- The **teleological** ethical system judges the consequences of the act rather than the act itself. It believes that if the action results in what can be considered as a good consequence, then it must be good and that the end result will justify the reason that the act was committed in the first place (Pollock, 2004)





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# Scenario 2

*Your best friend meets you after having a new hair cut that looks awful and asks you what you think. They are clearly delighted with it. Do you tell the truth?*

1. What would you do?
2. Why?
3. Is it the right thing to do?



# Scenario 2: Key ethical question

Is it sometimes right to do a bad action for a good outcome?



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# Key term and theory

- **Normative Ethics**-decides how people ought to act, how moral choices should be made and how the rules apply.
- **Deontological** moral systems are characterised by a focus upon adherence to independent moral rules or duties. To make the correct moral choices, we have to understand what our moral duties are and what correct rules exist to regulate those duties. When we follow our duty, we are behaving morally. When we fail to follow our duty, we are behaving immorally. Typically, in any deontological system, our duties, rules, and obligations are determined by God.





# Scenario 3

*You're close to a breakthrough with a new medical treatment, but to complete your work you must carry out some slow and painful experiments on animals.*

1. What would you do?
2. Why?
3. Is it the right thing to do?



# Scenario 3: Key ethical question

- Do all forms of life have equal rights?



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# Key Term

- **Practical (applied) ethics –**

Focuses on debates about specific dilemmas, such as abortion, animal testing, euthanasia and business ethics.



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# Scenario 4

*Your ship goes down and you are lost at sea with two others in a life raft. You have no food. Without food there is no hope of rescue before you starve to death. Two would survive by eating the third, or all three die.*



1. What would you do?
2. Why?
3. Is it the right thing to do?



# Scenario 4: Key ethical question

- Is an action right or wrong depending on its purpose?



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# The bigger picture!

You will study three components:

- **Component 1: Christianity:** This component provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of their chosen religion covering themes ranging from significant social and historical developments in religious thought – challenges from science, secularism, migration etc. to practices that shape religious identity.
- **Component 2: Philosophy of Religion** This component provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of fundamental philosophical themes, ranging from arguments for and against the existence of God to religious experience.
- **Component 3: Religion and Ethics** This component provides learners with the opportunity to undertake an in-depth and broad study of fundamental ethical themes, ranging from the application of ethical theories to issues such as animal experimentation to freewill and determinism.

What skills will I develop? Develop communication skills and learn to clearly express your views and increase your self-confidence. You will learn how to write logically and to develop reasoned arguments.

- Religion is always in the news – but is the information given always reliable? You will learn to develop your skills to analyse and evaluate information to make decisions about the issues and problems that effect religious believers.



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# Top tips for studying PRE at A Level.

- Turn on your news feed on your phone! Philosophy, Religion and Ethics are always in the news.
- Reading newspapers, magazines and academic journals related to religion can help provide an up-to-date understanding of religious issues around the world.
- Taking part in debates or attending lectures on religious topics can also be very helpful when revising for a level religious studies exam.



# What do I need to do to prepare before September?

Over the summer make sure you complete the transition work which can be found on the website.

- Please print the completed work and submit to Mrs Smith/Mrs Thatcher during the first week in September.
- Look at the specification from the examination board.
  - [A level specification template \(eduqas.co.uk\)](http://eduqas.co.uk)
- Please purchased three A4 folders, we will provide paper/exercise books.

