

Philosophy A/T

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Philosophy empowers students to reflect on themselves and the world. They investigate the challenges faced by individuals and society and interrogate approaches used to address questions, and consider solutions to those challenges.

Philosophical Skills

- Philosophical reasoning and thinking, logic, questioning
- Argumentation, developing a position, evaluating claims
- Applying ideas to real life situations, thinking philosophically about everyday phenomena
- Literacy skills: writing well, speaking confidently, listening carefully, and reading critically.

Extracurricular Opportunities

Ethics Olympiad

In the Ethics Olympiad students work as a team and compete against teams from other schools to come up with the best possible solution to ethical dilemmas. Lake Ginninderra won first place in this competition in 2024, and are looking to continue our success in 2025—*will you be the next Ethics gold medalist?*



Units

Philosophy units are broadly organised by different branches of philosophy, such as epistemology (knowledge), metaphysics (existence), and ethics (judgement). Philosophy in the World is an interdisciplinary unit.

Knowledge and Knowing

Students investigate and interrogate the nature of knowledge claims, and their assumptions and foundations. They evaluate claims to knowledge in a variety of academic and popular contexts. Students critically analyse the epistemologies of knowledge claims by applying established epistemological arguments and their own insights and propositions, including logic and First Nations Australian epistemologies.

Existence and Reality

Students explore philosophical notions of existence and reality by drawing on philosophies from a range of traditions, including Metaphysics. Students examine their assumption of their own existence, and that of others, and apply their experience of this existence to evaluate claims about the fundamental nature of how they exist and the reality that they exist in, including notions of origin, self, transformation, and death.

Judgement and Value

Students explore the nature of judgement and value. They evaluate these philosophies to universal and particular moral dilemmas and consider the significance and effects of their conclusions. They critically analyse the validity of individual and collective judgements around value.

Philosophy in the World

Students investigate issues in the world, applying significant philosophical theories and methods to better understand the beliefs, judgements and thinking of the actors involved, and to assist in the construction of their own robust and well-informed beliefs. Students relate the issues to their own lived experience to find parallels and give insights into their own conduct, assumptions and thinking.



How different branches of philosophy ask questions about “truth”

Epistemology	How do we know what is true?
Metaphysics	Is it always morally right to tell the truth?
Ethics	Is truth a fundamental aspect of reality?
Aesthetics	Can art convey truth?
Philosophy of Language	How does language shape our perception of truth?

Careers

Studies in philosophy can lead to further humanities studies at university, particularly in fields such as philosophy, politics, sociology, law, economics, history, and literature. Careers include bioethicist, data ethics consultant, ethical policy specialist, ethical AI developer, quantum philosopher, futurist, business ethics consultant.