PCT (Philosophy & Critical Thinking) KS4 Curriculum Overview 2025-26

The Humanities Faculty intend their curriculum to support the development of:

- **Questioning and curious students:** Foster a love for the Humanities subjects, whilst being challenged to interact and to ask and pose questions about the world around them.
- **Deep thinking and critical students:** To develop their oracy, think critically and form their own judgements and arguments backed by evidence, whilst reflecting on experiences other than their own.
- **Independent students:** Opportunities for students to develop metacognitive strategies and revision tools alongside soft skills such as teamwork and reflection.
- **Global citizens:** Students will learn about people and places within and outside their own experiences allowing them to challenge stereotypes and place themselves in the world around them.

PCT Curriculum Intent:

- That no one is an expert and to achieve a greater understanding of topics under discussion
- To enable students to argue effectively and rationally
- To enable students to actively listen and become active participants in discussions and debates on a variety of topics

Year 10

Philosophy & Critical Thinking (PCT)							
	Term 1		Term 2		Term 3		
Year 10	**Half Term 1**	**Half Term 2**	**Half Term 3**	**Half Term 4**	**Half Term 5**	**Half Term 6**	
Topic	**Philosophical Foundations**		**Philosophical Foundations**		**Philosophical Debates**		**End Points**
Skill	There will be four strands assessed through written work and oracy: • **Responsiveness** (able to respond to other's views or perspectives) • **Evaluate** (using sources of information and making a judgement) • **Argue** (communicate and present views or perspectives) • **Logic and Rationality** (use of principles, reason and knowledge)						By the end of the year for PCT students have been able to: Understand there are different branches of philosophy and philosophical thinking Reflect upon their place within the world and the philosophical, religious and ethical factors that affect their day to day lives and how these are reflected in core British Values
Content	• The Dawn of Philosophy • Searching for the Good Life: Socrates • What is real? Plato • Aristotle: How to live well	• Descartes: How do we know? • Kant: Do we always tell the truth?	• Types of philosophical thinking: Metaphysics • Epistemology • Logic and Argument	• Ethics and Axiology • Political Philosophy • Aesthetics	• Choice from the student themes covering the different branches of philosophy		
Prior Knowledge Required	Understanding of religious concepts such as 'truth' and 'wisdom' and 'belief'		Types of philosophical thinking such as utilitarianism or altruism		Moral questions from KS3 such as those around rights and responsibilities		
Feedback Points	SMP: 'In order to form fair and reasonable opinions in the modern world we need philosophical ideas'. Do you agree? Written response on key philosophical principles *(Logic and Rationality and Evaluate)*		SMP: 'Logic is the most important form of knowledge for Fullbrook students'. How far do you agree? Oxford Style Debate *(Responsiveness and Argue)*		SMP: First written draft of a chosen philosophical question		
Key Questions	What are first principles in philosophy?	How can we know what is real?	What is knowledge?	What is the most important form of knowledge?	See questions highlighted in yellow		
Direct Vocab Instruction	*Philosophy* *Socratic* *Illusion*	*Scepticism*	*Metaphysics* *Epistemology* *Logic*	*Ethics* *Axiology* *Aesthetics*	*Any specific terminology associated with the philosophical question being studied*		
Themes	Metaphysics (Reality and Being) What is time? Is there a God? Is there life after death? Do animals think? What makes me me? Do we have free will? Is gender fixed or chosen?	Epistemology (Knowledge and Truth) What is truth? Is it more important to be good than to be happy? Can machines think?	Logic (Argumentation and Reason) Is the world made by language? Does the mind control the body? Is my blue the same as your blue? Does everything happen for a reason?	Ethics and Axiology (Morality) What is the difference between right and wrong? Is it ever OK to cheat? Is it ever OK to lie? Does the earth have rights? What is fairness? Should we experiment on animals?	Political Philosophy (State and Government) Is the mind the same as the brain? Do we need governments? What is the point of school? Should sport be compulsory in schools?	Aesthetics (Beauty and Art) Is beauty in the eye of the beholder? What is art?	

Year 11

Philosophy & Critical Thinking (PCT)							
	Term 1		Term 2		Term 3		End Points
Year 11	Half Term 1	Half Term 2	Half Term 3	Half Term 4	Half Term 5	Half Term 6	
Topic	**Political Philosophy (7 lessons)**		**Technology (6 lessons)**		**Challenging Conspiracies**		
Skill	There will be four strands assessed through written work and oracy: • **Responsiveness** (able to respond to other's views or perspectives) • **Evaluation** (using sources of information and making a judgement) • **Argue** (communicate and present views or perspectives) • **Logic and Rationality** (use of principles, reason and knowledge)						By the end of the year for PCT students have been able to: Understand there are different branches of philosophy and philosophical thinking Reflect upon their place within the world and the philosophical, religious and ethical factors that affect their day to day lives and how these are reflected in core British Values
Content	• Systems of government – democracy • British vs American democracy • Systems of government – Oligarchy in Russia • Systems of government – totalitarian states	• When should we limit people's freedom? • Is anyone above the law? • Anarchy and Revolutions	• Social media and its impact on society • Political propaganda and how to spot it • Challenging fake news	• The rise of artificial intelligence • Ethics around cloning • Ethics around robotics	• Challenging conspiracies – flat earth • Challenging conspiracies – vaccines are dangerous		
Prior Knowledge Required							
Feedback Points	*SMP: 'Democracy leads to much freedom and disorder' Do you agree?*		*'Media can impact lives negatively' argue this*				
Key Questions	Why is democracy important?		Propaganda				
Direct Vocab Instruction	*Democracy*						
Themes	Metaphysics (Reality and Being) What is time? Is there a God? Is there life after death? Do animals think? What makes me me? Do we have free will? Is gender fixed or chosen?	Epistemology (Knowledge and Truth) What is truth? Is it more important to be good than to be happy? Can machines think?	Logic (Argumentation and Reason) Is the world made by language? Does the mind control the body? Is my blue the same as your blue? Does everything happen for a reason?	Ethics and Axiology (Morality) What is the difference between right and wrong? Is it ever OK to cheat? Is it ever OK to lie? Does the earth have rights? What is fairness? Should we experiment on animals?	Political Philosophy (State and Government) Is the mind the same as the brain? Do we need governments? What is the point of school? Should sport be compulsory in schools?	Aesthetics (Beauty and Art) Is beauty in the eye of the beholder? What is art?	