

Theology and Philosophy 16+ Entrance Exam

What we are looking for:

Theology and Philosophy is an invigorating intellectual discipline, requiring an enquiring mind and the ability to read, evaluate and create arguments. We are looking for students who are genuinely interested in the subject(s) and capable of synthesising a variety of forms of written material to inform detailed explanation and evaluation of ideas. The ability to work with nuance and be creative (though not chaotic) in your reasoning is also important.

The exam is divided into two sections of equal weighting:

Section A

You will be given an extract from a text. You will need to read this extract and answer short questions to demonstrate your understanding of the text. You may also be required to offer more lengthy explanations of ideas within the passage, alongside questions in which you evaluate a proposition as a single paragraph or short essay.

Section B

This will constitute a proposition to discuss in essay form. In this we are looking for well-structured essays, demonstrating impressive argument and justification of arguments. The best essays will include examples that are prescient and well explained, with sound reasoning. A fully-justified conclusion directly addressing the question is very important.

You are not required to have any specific subject knowledge, but you do need to show the ability to reason well.

Example essay question:

‘Eating meat is evidently wrong.’ Discuss

To address this question, you would need to consider a variety of arguments and address explicitly the claim that the wrongness of eating meat is **evident** and why (not). You should ensure you answer the exact essay question – not a general essay on the topic area. Effective essays will be divided into clear paragraphs, with a justified conclusion.