

# What's the Point in



# RE/Philosophy

To help you understand the value of RE/Philosophy, we've spoken to a number of professionals who still use the skills, qualities and knowledge they gained from the subject at school in the work they do today. Turn over to find out who they are, what they do and what they had to say....

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# What's the point in RE/Philosophy

## The Director

At every stage in my career, it has been incumbent on me to understand the biggest issues and the most effective interventions. Often our opinions and information presented come in nice packages that are well meaning but do not do justice to the greatest priorities.

I use philosophy and ethics to make effective and altruistic business decisions. I am often looking for the most neglected and tractable issues that can help the largest groups of people in need. Without critical thinking and analysis, it is very easy to think that you are doing good but find that you are not doing the MOST good. Philosophy or Religious Education can help you do that better at a local and global level.

**Nick Horslen, Director at Prestwood Pharmacy Ltd**

## The Team Leader

I studied Philosophy as an undergraduate and as a postgraduate. Its main value to me has been in helping me to think and write clearly. This has played an important role in my career as a civil servant where it is important to get to the heart of the matter and to break a problem up into its elements.

**Paul Johnston, Team Leader for the Social Mobility Commission**

## The Management Accountant

I am not religious, although I managed a team of 20 people from different cultures, some of which had close religious followings. I learned that the 'live and let live' approach earned me respect and relaxed the team when dealing with me. I believe that relaxed people perform best. The team in turn involved me in their religious celebrations e.g. Diwali

**Robert Eeles, Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants**

## The Business Professional

Theology, Philosophy, and History are subjects that are increasingly in demand in various spheres of society. For example, with developments in AI the need to resolve ethical dilemmas has become increasingly important as societies debate the benefits and impact on the world of work and social interaction. Plus it gives graduates an important role in shaping ideas and theological debates within their church (if they are churched) and wider community.

**Clement Akran MBA, Agile Business Transformation Professional**

## The Student and Adult Mentor

I studied Religious Education at school and within a second degree which also included aspects of psychology. I've found that there's a huge cross over with these subjects and principles of philosophy. Much of my work now is based on philosophy, psychology and neuroscience. RE and Philosophy are extremely useful in self-development, awareness and building character - something which I educate people on in my current job.

**Stephen Feeney, Student and Adult Mentor**

## The Director and Head of Qualitative Insight

I studied Religious Education at A Level and this led on to studying Philosophy as part of my degree. At a general level, studying Philosophy is hugely valuable in helping you develop skills of critical thinking, logic and debate. It helps you think through an issue from multiple perspectives and to work out the best way forward. That's very useful in the world of work, as well as winning arguments in general!

**Fiona Egan, Director and Head of Qualitative Insight at WPP plc (marketing/adver)**

## The Student Engagement Officer

Studying a degree in Theology introduced me to a wide range of people, all studying Theology for different reasons, from different perspectives and from different parts of the world.

There were people on my course who were very conservative, very liberal, atheists, agnostics and had a wide range of views on many issues including ethical issues, sexuality, gender and many more.

One of my lecturers once said, "When you study Theology you are introduced to all of life's big questions, then you will spend the rest of your life figuring out the answers".

Studying Theology prepared me for working with people who share many different views on life, and encouraged me to always try to see things from another person's perspective, which has been very valuable to me in communicating with many different people throughout my career. It made me realise that I should never assume "I have all the right answers", and should always be open to being challenged to consider things in a different way.

**Rachael Sterrett, Student Engagement Officer at Lancaster University**



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