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LIVE Event for students of Ethics for AS/A Level Religious Studies With Dr Peter Vardy

# Ends & Means

## Dates for 2026-27

- London, 19<sup>th</sup> November
- Manchester, 23<sup>rd</sup> February
- Coventry, 9<sup>th</sup> March
- London, 12<sup>th</sup> March





Dr. Peter Vardy was Vice Principal of Heythrop College, University of London (1999-2011); he is internationally well-known as a leader in the fields of Religious Studies, Philosophy and Ethics and Values Education. Peter's many books – including the best-selling "Puzzle of" series for HarperCollins – demonstrate his ability to communicate complex ideas with clarity, accuracy and humour. For more than three decades schools and colleges have looked to Peter to provide outstanding conferences, resources and CPD / INSET, both to support their work in RS and Philosophy and more broadly.

**Did you know?** Peter was awarded an honorary doctorate for his work in promoting Religious Studies in schools by the University of Chichester in 2021.



"Dr Vardy and Charlotte never disappoint, both deliver content with passion and are the experts in the field. Students found the conference to be intellectually challenging and important to their A Level studies."  
Teacher

"They are really excellent conferences- clear, coherent and extending talks upon all subjects linked with courses. A must for aspirational sixth formers." Save RE  
Facebook Comment

Building on the success of "Athens or Jerusalem?" and "Human Nature" in 2025-26, Candle Conferences presents an all-new LIVE event for students of the Philosophy of Religion for AS / A Level Religious Studies. "Ends & Means" will explore content specified by ALL ENGLISH EXAMINATION BOARDS, focusing on the compulsory Ethics paper. The event aims to get students really excited about the subject, enriching and extending their knowledge and understanding as well as supporting them in analysing, evaluating and making informed, well-reasoned academic judgements.

Sessions include...

#### 1. Ends & Meanings: Meta-Ethics & What Does 'Good' Really Mean?

In this introductory session, Dr Vardy will guide students through the fascinating world of meta-ethics, exploring the very foundations of moral philosophy. Using real-life scenarios and thought experiments, participants will investigate the question: "What does it really mean to say something is 'good'?" Students will be encouraged to consider different perspectives on moral language, including ethical naturalism, ethical intuitionism and emotivism. The session will culminate in a collaborative group activity, where students will apply these ideas to make carefully reasoned academic judgments, setting the stage for deeper ethical analysis throughout the day.

#### 2. Do the Ends Justify the Means? Diving into Utilitarianism

This session will examine Utilitarianism, exploring the principle that the morality of an action is determined by its consequences and the greatest happiness it produces. Dr Vardy will introduce the key thinkers - including Bentham, Mill and Singer - as well as unpacking the differences between act and rule utilitarianism. Through practical examples—from everyday choices to contemporary ethical dilemmas—students will learn how to weigh costs, benefits, and wider consequences. The session will conclude with a whole-group discussion, allowing participants to debate the strengths and limitations of Utilitarian thought, and consider its relevance to the modern world.

#### 3. Treat People Always as Ends: Understanding Kantian Ethics

In this session, students will explore Kantian Ethics, focusing on the idea that individuals should always be treated as ends in themselves, never merely as means. Dr Vardy will guide learners through key concepts such as the categorical imperative, duty, and moral law, illustrating these ideas with accessible examples and moral dilemmas. Participants will engage in a hands-on activity designed to strengthen their essay-writing skills, helping them structure persuasive arguments and critically evaluate Kantian principles in preparation for their exams.

#### 4. The Ethics of Exploitation: Debating Moral Boundaries

The final session of the day will challenge students to consider the ethical limits of action: is it ever acceptable to exploit humans, animals, or the environment for a greater good? Dr Vardy will present contemporary case studies, from corporate practices to environmental issues, prompting students to weigh competing ethical principles. The session will culminate in a formal debate on the motion: "This house believes that the ends justify any means of achieving them." Students will work in teams to prepare evidence-based arguments, engage in dynamic discussion, and apply the day's learning before a final vote determines the group's verdict.

### To Book

Student tickets for "Ends & Means" cost £20, when booked online.

- We offer a 10% discount if you book 10+ tickets together online (e-mail for your ACCESS CODE)
- You can buy a COMBINED ticket to both of our A Level events for just £30, when booked online and subject to t&cs.
- We offer one free teacher-place per 10 students, otherwise accompanying teachers cost £20. Teachers attending alone for CPD purposes cost £100
- Trainee teachers and extra adults supporting individual students to access the event attend for free.

With Candle you get:

- Up-to-date scholarly content made engaging and tailored to the real needs of A Level students.
- Sessions and resources designed by practicing teachers with a record of engaging students of all abilities.

Easy, secure online bookings

www.candleconferences.com  
info@candleconferences.com  
Tel: 07743 707529

X @PuzzleVardy

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