



B O A R D O F S T U D I E S
NEW SOUTH WALES

2002

**HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE
EXAMINATION**

Philosophy

Distinction Course

General Instructions

- Reading time – 5 minutes
- Working time – 2 hours
- Write using black or blue pen

Total marks – 40

- Attempt Questions 1–4

Total marks – 40

Attempt Questions 1–4

Answer each question in a SEPARATE writing booklet. Extra writing booklets are available.

Question 1 — Time and Cause (10 marks)

- (a) Why do some philosophers think there is a difference between *changing* the past and *affecting* the past? What implications, if any, does this have for time travel?

OR

- (b) Is there an important distinction between the positions of fatalism and determinism? Discuss.

Question 2 — Self-concept (10 marks)

- (a) For Locke, memory is the crucial component of our continuing identity. Reid rejects Locke's claim. On what grounds does he do so, and is he right?

OR

- (b) To what extent, if any, do social phenomena such as gender OR ethnicity influence the formation of the self? Discuss.

Question 3 — Morality, Religion and Happiness (10 marks)

- (a) Why might some philosophers think that if God does not exist, then morality is an illusion? Are they correct?

OR

- (b) Distinguish utilitarian from deontological approaches to morality. Which account of morality is more plausible?

Question 4 — Reality and Credibility (10 marks)

- (a) Why did Descartes believe that his existence as a thinking being was the only thing of which he could be absolutely certain? Was he correct? Discuss.

OR

- (b) What, according to Gilbert Ryle, is 'Descartes' Myth'? Are his criticisms of Descartes persuasive? Discuss.

End of paper