



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

**2005**

**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

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**Attempt Questions 1–4**

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

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**Question 1 — Time and Cause (10 marks)**

- (a) Is it possible to travel back in time and kill your grandfather when he was a boy? Discuss.

**OR**

- (b) What is the difference between *fatalism* and *determinism*? Can one be a determinist without being committed to fatalism? Can one be a fatalist whilst rejecting determinism? Discuss.

**Question 2 — Self-concept (10 marks)**

- (a) What, if anything, makes you the same person over the course of your life? Discuss with reference to the writings of Locke, Reid and Hume.

**OR**

- (b) A person has many social roles – brother, sister, friend, colleague, citizen and so on. Do our social roles constitute the sum of our identities or is there something more to personhood? Discuss.

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

- (a) Can morality exist without a religious foundation? Discuss.

**OR**

- (b) Deontologists claim that there are some things that should never be done, regardless of the consequences. Is this claim defensible? Discuss.

**Question 4 — Reality and Credibility (10 marks)**

- (a) Do our senses ever deceive us? What implications, if any, might the answer to this question have for our knowledge of the external world? Discuss with reference to at least TWO of the philosophers considered in the course.

**OR**

- (b) On what grounds does Ryle object to Descartes' conception of the mind? Do his objections succeed? Discuss.

**End of paper**