



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

**2006**

**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) Do time travel stories about the past contradict themselves? Explain your answer.

**OR**

(b) What is the principle of bivalence and why do some philosophers believe that it delivers fatalism? Are they correct? Argue for your position.

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

(a) Will you be the same person at the age of 60 as you were at the age of 6? Discuss with reference to Locke and Reid.

**OR**

(b) Would you be the same person if you had a different body? Could you be a person at all without a body? Discuss.

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

(a) ‘Moral rules are divine commands.’ Can there be morality without God? Discuss with reference to relevant philosophers.

**OR**

(b) Is there anything at all that ought never be done under any circumstances, regardless of the consequences? Discuss.

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

(a) Does the fact that our senses sometimes deceive us mean that they can never deliver us knowledge of the external world? Discuss with reference to relevant philosophers.

**OR**

(b) Can we sensibly doubt our own existence? If so, why? If not, why not?

**End of paper**