



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

2010

**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) Is there a plausible distinction between *affecting* and *changing* the past? Discuss with reference to the coherence of ‘the very idea’ of time-travel.

OR

- (b) Discuss whether there is a genuine difference between *fatalism* and *determinism*. Is the determinist committed to the idea that our choices are ‘predetermined’?

Question 2 — Self-concept (10 marks)

- (a) What makes you remain the same person over time? Discuss with reference to the works of Locke and Reid.

OR

- (b) Is one’s identity entirely a product of external social forces? Is there anything essential in who we are? Give reasons for your views.

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

- (a) Divine Command Theory tells us that right and wrong are determined by God’s will. Is this a sufficient account of morality? Discuss with reference to the Euthyphro Dilemma.

OR

- (b) Does utilitarianism justify the sacrifice of innocents? If it did so, would this provide grounds for rejecting it as a doctrine? Give reasons for your position.

Question 4 — Reality and Credibility (10 marks)

- (a) Does Descartes’ *Cogito* provide a secure foundation for knowledge? Give reasons for your view.

OR

- (b) Berkeley claims that to be is to be perceived. How does he arrive at this conclusion? Is he correct?

End of paper

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