



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

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

2000

PHILOSOPHY

DISTINCTION COURSE

(40 Marks)

*Time allowed—Two hours
(Plus 5 minutes reading time)*

DIRECTIONS TO CANDIDATES

- Attempt FOUR questions.
- All questions are of equal value.
- Answer each question in a SEPARATE Writing Booklet.
- You may ask for extra Writing Booklets if you need them.

Attempt FOUR questions.

QUESTION 1 Time and Cause

EITHER

- (a) Can we distinguish between coherent and incoherent time-travel narratives? In your answer, you should refer to at least one of the time-travel scenarios presented in the course.

OR

- (b) Define *fatalism* and *determinism*. Can one be a determinist while rejecting fatalism?

QUESTION 2 Self-concept

EITHER

- (a) What challenge does the case of Reid's Gallant Officer pose to Locke's view of the personal identity? Does it succeed?

OR

- (b) Are there clearly defined boundaries of the self? Can we always be certain where we end and where others begin?

QUESTION 3 Morality, Religion and Happiness

EITHER

- (a) Can an atheist be genuinely moral? If so, why? If not, why not?

OR

- (b) 'In the final analysis, in arriving at moral judgements the good of the community is all that matters.' Discuss.

QUESTION 4 Reality and Credibility

EITHER

- (a) Should a Cartesian be sceptical about the existence of the external world?

OR

- (b) Ryle maintains that a mistaken view of the mind underlies Descartes' arguments. What is this view of the mind? Does Ryle's criticism succeed?

End of paper