



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

2003

**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.

Question 1 — Time and Cause (10 marks)

- (a) Is realism about the future defensible? Explain your answer.

OR

- (b) What is *determinism*? Does determinism commit you to fatalism? Discuss.

Question 2 — Self-concept (10 marks)

- (a) Contrast Locke and Hume’s views of the self. Which account is more plausible? Discuss.

OR

- (b) Is a person anything over and above the social roles he or she inhabits? Explain your answer.

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

- (a) ‘God says it, I believe it, that settles it.’ Even if we can be certain that God commands some particular action, does that ‘settle’ the question of its moral status? Discuss.

OR

- (b) ‘If the consequences of an action increase the amount of happiness in the world, then that action is morally right.’ Discuss.

Question 4 — Reality and Credibility (10 marks)

- (a) Why does Berkeley deny that a stone can be hot? What implications does he draw from this claim for our knowledge of the external world? Do you think he is correct? Discuss.

OR

- (b) Does the fact that we are sometimes subject to perceptual illusions mean that we should never trust the deliverances of our senses? Discuss. In your answer you should refer to relevant philosophical views on the nature and significance of sensory perception.

End of paper