



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

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

1998

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) What, if anything, is the difference between changing the past and affecting the past? Do time travel stories about changing the past contradict themselves? Explain your answer.

OR

- (b) What is the Parmenidean concept of time? Is it compatible with determinism or not?

QUESTION 2. Self-concept

EITHER

- (a) Am I my body? Give reasons for your answer.

OR

- (b) If you lost your memory, would you be a different person? Why?

QUESTION 3. Morality, Religion and Happiness

EITHER

- (a) 'Morality is merely a way of dressing up and masking personal desires.' Argue *either* for or against this view.

OR

- (b) Utilitarianism seems to allow that any act, no matter how apparently horrific, might be good or even morally required. Is this a reason to reject utilitarianism? Explain your answer, with reference to AT LEAST ONE example.

QUESTION 4. Reality and Credibility

EITHER

- (a) Should we act only on the basis of what we know with certainty to be true? Discuss, with reference to Descartes and/or Harry's dilemma in 'You Could Be Wrong'.

OR

- (b) According to Berkeley, to be is merely to be perceived. Explain and evaluate his view.

End of paper