



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

HIGHER SCHOOL CERTIFICATE EXAMINATION

1999

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) Does time flow or pass? Is all talk of 'passage' confused, misleading or contradictory?

OR

- (b) Could there be time without change? If all change ceased, would time itself cease?

QUESTION 2 Self-concept

EITHER

- (a) What are the implications of Dennett's story, *Where Am I?*, for traditional notions of the self?

OR

- (b) John Locke suggested that personal identity is importantly linked to memory. In what sense, if any, was he right?

QUESTION 3 Morality, Religion and Happiness

EITHER

- (a) Does God's commanding me to perform some action make that act morally obligatory?

OR

- (b) Is saying 'X is good' doing anything more than simply cheering for X?

QUESTION 4 Reality and Credibility

EITHER

- (a) How did Descartes reach his *Cogito* claim? Can we be certain of anything more than our own existence?

OR

- (b) How does Ryle attempt to undermine the Cartesian picture of consciousness?

End of paper