



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

**2001**

**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.

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**Question 1 — Time and Cause** (10 marks)

- (a) In his article ‘Fate’, Richard Taylor concludes: ‘Was Osmo’s fatalism justified? Of course it was’. Is Taylor right?

**OR**

- (b) David Lewis argues that coherent time-travel allows for *affecting* the past but not *changing* it. Why does he make this distinction? Does it save time-travel from incoherence?

**Question 2 — Self-concept** (10 marks)

- (a) If you lost your memory, would you be the same person? Why or why not?

**OR**

- (b) Is there anything more to your *self* than the social roles you bear?

**Question 3 — Mortality, Religion and Happiness** (10 marks)

- (a) ‘If *everyone* in Omelas thinks that the treatment of the “wretched child” is morally right, then that is all that there is to the matter.’ Do you agree? Give reasons.

**OR**

- (b) It is often said that without God there can be no genuine morality. Is this claim correct? Give reasons.

**Question 4 — Reality and Credibility** (10 marks)

- (a) Ryle claims that our knowledge of our own minds is no different from our knowledge of others’ minds. What are his reasons for holding this view? Is he right?

**OR**

- (b) Is there a world independent of our experiences? Discuss, making reference to the views of Berkeley, Descartes and other relevant philosophers.

**End of paper**