



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

**2004**

**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

**Total marks – 40**

**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) Is it possible to travel back in time to observe your own birth? Could you engage in infanticide on your younger self? Discuss, with reference to debates about coherent and incoherent time travel.

**OR**

- (b) Some philosophers argue that if we accept the principle of bivalence we are thereby committed to fatalism. Is this the case? Are there any other reasons for holding fatalism to be true?

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

- (a) Do you think that the aged general and the boy in Reid's Gallant Officer Paradox are one and the same person? What are the consequences of this for our view of the self? Discuss with reference to the writings of TWO or more relevant philosophers.

**OR**

- (b) Is 'who you are' a matter of what social roles you occupy? If not, who are you? Give reasons for your answer.

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

- (a) For a utilitarian, what is it that makes an action morally right? Is utilitarianism compatible with the view that people are ends-in-themselves? Give reasons.

**OR**

- (b) Is God's existence necessary for morality to have a genuine foundation? If so, why? If not, why not?

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

- (a) Berkeley argues that to be is to be perceived. Accordingly, only that which is perceived exists. Why does he say this and is he correct?

**OR**

- (b) Descartes claims that the only thing an individual can be certain of is his or her existence. How did he reach this conclusion and was he right to do so?

**End of paper**