



# Philosophy

## Written examination – November

### Examination specifications

#### Overall conditions

The examination will be prepared by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 120 minutes writing time.

VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the Study Score.

#### Content

All outcomes of Units 3 and 4 will be examined. Details have been published in the *Philosophy VCE Study Design (2008–2012)*.

#### Format

The examination will be organised into four sections; two sections will focus on Unit 3 and the other two on Unit 4. All sections will be compulsory and will be worth equal marks.

The examination will be scored out of 60 marks.

Section A (25%) will consist of compulsory short answer and extended answer questions derived from Unit 3, Outcomes 1 and 2.

Section B (25%) will consist of compulsory extended answer questions derived from Unit 3, Outcomes 2 and 3.

Section C (25%) will consist of compulsory extended answer questions derived either from Unit 4, Outcome 1 or Unit 4, Outcome 2. All questions in Section C will be derived from the same outcome.

Section D (25%) will consist of three optional essay tasks derived either from Unit 4, Outcome 1 or Unit 4, Outcome 2. All essay tasks in Section D will be derived from the same outcome. One of these essay tasks should be attempted.

Note: if Section C is derived from Unit 4, Outcome 1, then Section D will be derived from Unit 4, Outcome 2 and *vice versa*.

Unseen stimulus material may be used in one or more sections of the examination.

#### Stationery

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.

#### Additional resources

None

## Advice

The examination criteria and description were published in the *VCE Philosophy Assessment Handbook 2008–2012*.

The structure of the examination for Philosophy has changed substantially from 2007.

Examinations will be set to assess according to the following criteria (published in the *VCE Philosophy Assessment Handbook 2008–2012*):

1. Understanding and appropriate use of philosophical terminology, concepts, viewpoints and arguments
2. Ability to write clear, precise, and justified critical responses to philosophical viewpoints and arguments
3. Analysis of philosophical arguments about the good life
4. Critical comparison of arguments about the good life in the set texts and in other sources including contemporary debates
5. Analysis of viewpoints and arguments about the relationship between mind and body within and between set texts and in contemporary debates
6. Analysis of viewpoints and arguments concerning the nature of knowledge within and between set texts and in contemporary debates
7. Evaluation of philosophical viewpoints and arguments about the good life and their implications for contemporary life
8. Evaluation of viewpoints and arguments about the nature of knowledge and the relationship between body and mind within and between the set texts and in contemporary debates

During the accreditation period for VCE Philosophy (2008–2012), examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and skills.

The following sample examination provides an indication of the type of questions teachers and students can expect on the Philosophy examination during the life of this Study Design (2008–2012).







**SECTION B**



‘Strength to lead’



‘Strength to obey’

**Question 1**

What idea of the good life is suggested in the above images and captions?

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2 marks















