VCE PHILOSOPHY STUDY REVIEW PLAN

Background

The Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA) is the statutory authority responsible for the development, approval, monitoring, evaluation and review of curriculum and assessment for the VCE and its studies. The Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA) is the statutory authority responsible for the accreditation of the VCE and its studies, including periods of accreditation.

The current VCE Philosophy Study Design is due to expire on 31 December 2024.

In 2022, it was determined that VCE Philosophy would undergo a major review in 2023.

A major review may involve consideration of:

* changes to the rationale for and focus of the study
* introduction of substantial new content and new skills arising from contemporary developments in the discipline: for example, with respect to new knowledge, techniques or approaches
* substantial reorganisation of knowledge and skills between units, areas of study or outcomes as a result of monitoring and evaluation during the accreditation period
* the number, type and weighting of school-based and/or external assessments.

Terms of Reference

The review is conducted according to the Terms of Reference and the [*Principles and procedures for the development and review of VCE studies*](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/Documents/vce/Principles_Procedures_VCE_review.docx)*.*

The Terms of Reference for the VCE Philosophy review can be found in **Attachment 1.**

Study Review Panel

A Study Review Panel for VCE Philosophy will meet regularly during 2023 to develop a draft study design proposal.

The VCE Philosophy Study Review Panel consists of members from a range of sectors including: schools (government, Catholic and independent), tertiary and a representative from the Professional Teachers Association.

Study Review Timeline

The schedule for the review can be found in **Attachment 2.**

Consultation

Consultation is an important part of the VCAA’s curriculum and assessment development and review processes. Consultation informing a review process is broad, and consultation material is freely available to members of the public.

Consultation on the draft VCE Philosophy Study Design will be conducted from 7 August to 4 September 2023. The draft study design and consultation questionnaire will be available for consideration on the [VCE Philosophy](https://www.vcaa.vic.edu.au/curriculum/vce/vce-study-designs/philosophy/Pages/Index.aspx) study page during that time.

To register your interest for the public consultation, please complete the [registration form](https://vcaa.au1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_86QKAjLUrq5zMEe).

Further information

For further information, please contact the Curriculum Manager responsible for the review:

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**Attachment 1:** Terms of reference

VCE PHILOSOPHY STUDIES REVIEW PANEL

Terms of Reference (Major Review)

The VCE Philosophy Review Panel will undertake the review of the VCE Philosophy Study Design, and will develop a draft study design proposal in accordance with the VCAA’s *Principles and procedures for the development and review of VCE studies*. The role of the panel is advisory and the proposed study design will be subject to endorsement by the Senior Secondary Curriculum and Assessment Committee (SSCAC) and approval by the Board of the VCAA.

When reviewing VCE Philosophy, the Review Panel is required to consider the following in relation to the existing study:

* study-specific issues identified prior to commencing the review, including:
* enrolments and enrolment trends by unit and year level (including gender, sector and location)
* satisfactory completion rates by unit (including gender, sector and location)
* reports from the state reviewer, examination panel chair and chief assessor
* feedback from stakeholders including teachers and students
* evidence of uptake of any optional components with the study
* data from the school-based assessment audit
* grade distributions for all graded assessments
* relevant data from the external assessment program
* data from monitoring and evaluation activities.
* any proposed changes to the study
* benchmarking against similar subject curriculum and assessments in other high performing national and global jurisdictions
* coherence with other VCE studies within the same discipline and related disciplines
* the relationship between the Victorian Curriculum F–10 and the VCE study
* the relationship between the study and post-schooling pathways including employment and further education
* the extent to which current research and developments in the discipline are appropriately reflected in the study
* overlap or duplication within the study, with other VCE studies, VCE VET programs or VCAL units
* the coherence of the overall structure of the study and consistency with its aims
* the role and configuration of the prescribed text list in relation to the study
* the appropriate relationship between the areas of study and outcomes, school-based assessment and external assessment
* the effectiveness of the assessment program in measuring student performance against the learning outcomes
* the implications of any proposed changes for the assessment program
* in relation to the specific study, the appropriate use of ICT in school-based and external assessment
* the appropriateness of the weighting of school-based and external assessment
* how the study enables broad participation and the achievement of excellence
* teacher and student workload
* sources of gender, cultural or socioeconomic bias
* any specific facilities and resources required to deliver the study, including implications for the professional learning requirements for teachers.

Consultation

In the development of the proposal, the Review Panel will ensure that it consults with key interest groups including:

* teachers and others on the VCE Study Register, interested in being consulted on VCE Philosophy
* the State Reviewer, Chairperson of the Examination Panel and Chief Assessor
* Victorian Association for Philosophy in Schools
* the university sector.

The consultation draft study design and questionnaire will be made available on the VCAA website during the consultation period.

**Attachment 2:** Timeline for the VCE Review

VCE PHILOSOPHY  
REVIEW TIMELINE

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| Milestone | Date |
| VCE Philosophy approved by the VCAA Board to undergo a major review in 2023 | August 2022 |
| Benchmarking report completed | August 2022 |
| Schools notified in the *VCAA Bulletin* of the VCE Philosophy Review | September 2022 |
| Expressions of Interest sought for VCE Philosophy Review Panel | September 2022 |
| VCE Philosophy Review Panel selected | October 2022 |
| Study Review Panel commence work | December 2022 |
| Public consultation on proposed VCE Philosophy study design | 7 August to 4 September 2023 |
| Feedback from the public consultation and Independent Reviewer considered by the Study Review Panel | September/October 2023 |
| VCAA Board approval of revised study design | December 2023 |
| VRQA approval of the accreditation period of the revised study design | December 2023 |
| Study design published for 2025 implementation | Term 1, 2024 |
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