


Philosophy and Reason

General Senior Subject

General

School Code	PHI		
Year Level	11 & 12	QCE Credits	4
Subject Type	General Subject	VET Contribution	N/A
Recommended Academic Performance	English—C Standard Humanities/Business—C Standard		
21 st Century Skills			

Philosophy & Reason combines the discipline of philosophy with the associated skills of critical reasoning. The study of philosophy allows students to recognise the relevance of various philosophies to different political, ethical, religious and scientific positions. It also allows them to realise that decisions in these areas are the result of the acceptance of certain ideas and specific modes of reasoning. In addition, critical reasoning and logic provide knowledge, skills and understanding so students are able to engage with, examine and analyse classical and contemporary ideas and issues. The study of philosophy enables students to make rational arguments, espouse viewpoints and engage in informed discourse. In Philosophy & Reason, students learn to understand and use reasoning to develop coherent world-views and to reflect upon the nature of their own decisions as well as their responses to the views of others. Through the study of Philosophy & Reason, students collaboratively investigate philosophical ideas that have shaped and continue to influence contemporary society. These ideas include what it means to be human, how we understand the role of reason in our individual and collective lives and how we think about and care for each other and the world around us.

Students analyse arguments from a variety of sources and contexts as they develop an understanding of what constitutes effective reasoning. They formalise arguments and choose appropriate techniques of reasoning to attempt to solve problems. The collaborative nature of philosophical inquiry is an essential component for students to understand and develop norms of effective thinking and to value and seek a range of ideas beyond their own.

Pathways:

Philosophy & Reason is a General subject suited to students who are interested in pathways beyond school that lead to tertiary studies, vocational education or work. A course of study in Philosophy & Reason can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of business, communication, ethics, journalism, law, politics, professional writing, psychology, science research and teaching.

Objectives:

- define and use the terminology
- explain concepts, methods, principles and theories
- interpret and analyse arguments, ideas and information
- organise and synthesise ideas and information for the purposes of constructing and evaluating arguments
- evaluate claims and arguments inherent in a range of theories, views and ideas
- create responses that communicate ideas to suit purpose

Structure:

Unit 1	Unit 2	Unit 3	Unit 4
<p>Fundamental of reason</p> <p>The learning consists of the fundamental concepts, skills, knowledge and understanding of the discipline of philosophy. There are no discrete topics in this unit.</p> <p>Assessment</p> <p>Formative internal assessment/s</p>	<p>Reason in philosophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: Philosophy of religion • Topic 2: Philosophy of mind <p>Assessment</p> <p>Formative internal assessment/s</p>	<p>Moral philosophy and schools of thought</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: Moral philosophy • Topic 2: Philosophical schools of thought <p>Assessment</p> <p>Summative internal assessment 1: Examination (25%)</p> <p>Summative internal assessment 2: Extended response (25%)</p>	<p>Social and political philosophy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Topic 1: Rights • Topic 2: Political philosophy <p>Assessment</p> <p>Summative internal assessment 3: Extended response (25%)</p> <p>Summative external assessment: Examination (25%)</p>

Assessment:

Schools devise assessments in Units 1 and 2 to suit their local context.

In Units 3 and 4 students complete four summative assessments. The results from each of the assessments are added together to provide a subject score out of 100. Students will also receive an overall subject result (A–E).

Summative assessments:

Unit 3		Unit 4	
Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1):	25%	Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3):	25%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination—extended response 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended response—analytical essay 	
Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2):	25%	Summative external assessment (EA):	25%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended response—analytical essay 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Examination—extended response 	

Costs

It is expected that students studying this subject participate in BYOD. Please see page 155 for further information and device specifications.