Delivery mode - Online course
Internet access and a good quality headset with microphone are essential.

Online ‘live’ lessons are delivered through the EQ web conference platform.

This course also makes extensive use of the EQ learning management system, ‘Blackboard’. Students will be required to view online materials and complete online activities in Blackboard each week in addition to attending online lessons.

Time commitment
This course is timetabled for 3 x 70 minute lessons per week. This time may include attendance at scheduled lessons and tutorials or independent/practical work. Students should expect to allocate up to 2 hours per week of additional time for ‘homework’, assessment preparation, revision, etc.

Prerequisites
It is recommended that students have achieved a minimum standard of B in Year 10 English.

Course outline
Fundamentals of Argument
The core topic, Fundamentals of Argument, sets out to provide knowledge of widely used deductive and inductive reasoning processes. The student recognises and evaluates these, and identifies associated fallacies and shortcomings. This is an intensely practical area, involving analysis of reasoning in written and oral form with widely ranging subject matter. The knowledge and skills gained by students in this area equip them to analyse information rationally.

These skills have wide application for students in other subjects studied at school, in tertiary studies, and as active participants in their society.

Philosophy
The study of Philosophy allows the student to recognise the relevance of various philosophies to different social, ethical and religious positions, and to realise that decisions in these areas are the result of an acceptance of both a certain body of beliefs and of a specific mode of reasoning. Study in this area is especially useful since it allows the student to apply the reasoning skills acquired through the core topic. The continued emphasis on consistency and justification enables the student to develop a rational view on major issues which previously may have been viewed irrationally.

Students are encouraged to express and justify views about current issues. Developing a confident and rational attitude to social issues and the views of others is a major aim of this course.

Philosophy topics include Philosophy of Religion, Philosophy of Mind, Moral Philosophy and Social and Political Philosophy.

Assessment
Students complete assessment tasks for each of the above units and submit them to their teacher for comment and feedback. Students should expect 2-3 tasks per semester (4-6 per year).

There are three main modes of assessment- extended response (i.e. assignment), extended response under exam conditions, and short response under exam conditions.

Judgments about student achievement made at exit from the course of study are based on the fullest and latest information available.

As the assessment program in Philosophy & Reason is developmental, fullest and latest information will most likely come from Year 12, although in some circumstances work from Year 11 will be considered.

ASK YOURSELF:
• Do you enjoy an intellectual challenge?
• Do you try to find explanations for things?
• Do you see problems and try to solve them?
• Do you wonder about how people think?
• Do you enjoy interacting in the classroom?
• Do you wonder about Life, The Universe, and Everything?
• Do you like to argue?

If the answer is yes, then you should consider this subject.

DISCLAIMER: All information contained is accurate at the time of publication.