Philosophy and Reason

General senior subject

Philosophy and Reason provides opportunities for students to investigate philosophical ideas that have shaped and continue to influence contemporary society, including 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 recognise the relevance of various philosophies to different political, ethical, religious and scientific positions.

Students learn to understand and use reasoning to examine and analyse classical and contemporary ideas and issues, make rational arguments, communicate viewpoints and engage in informed discourse. They analyse arguments from a variety of sources and contexts, formalise arguments and choose appropriate techniques of reasoning to solve problems.

Pathways

A course of study in Philosophy and Reason specifically focuses on the development of transferable skills, such as analysis, evaluation and justification, and an appreciation of the values of inquiry such as precision, accuracy, clarity and credibility. Students are thus prepared for post-school participation in a wide range of fields, including business, communication, ethics, journalism, law, politics, professional writing, psychology, science research, and teaching. Studying Philosophy and Reason provides students with the skills of collaboration, communication, and critical thinking which are essential to informed participation in modern society.

Objectives

By the conclusion of the course of study, students will:
• define and use terminology
• explain concepts, methods, principles and theories
• interpret and analyse arguments, ideas and information
• organise and synthesise ideas and information to construct arguments
• evaluate claims and arguments inherent in theories, views and ideas
• create responses that communicate meaning to suit purpose.

Recommendations for Success

Philosophy and Reason requires a high level of literacy. A grade of B or above in Year 10 English is highly recommended.

Collaboration and communication are integral to the study of Philosophy. Students should be willing to share ideas with others and to actively participate in class discussions.
Structure

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<tr>
<th>Unit 1</th>
<th>Unit 2</th>
<th>Unit 3</th>
<th>Unit 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fundamentals of reason</td>
<td>Reason in philosophy</td>
<td>Moral philosophy and schools of thought</td>
<td>Social and political philosophy</td>
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- The learning consists of the fundamental concepts, skills, knowledge and understanding of the discipline of philosophy
- Philosophy of religion
- Philosophy of mind
- Topic 1: Moral philosophy
- Topic 2: Philosophical schools of thought
- Topic 1: Rights
- Topic 2: Political philosophy

Assessment

Students will complete three formal assessments in Units 1 and 2, as well as a range of formative tasks.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 3</th>
<th>Unit 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summative internal assessment 1 (IA1):</td>
<td>Summative internal assessment 3 (IA3):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Examination — extended response — analytical essay based on Unit 3 Topic 1</td>
<td>• Extended response — analytical essay based on Unit 4 Topic 1</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Unit 3</th>
<th>Unit 4</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Summative internal assessment 2 (IA2):</td>
<td>Summative external assessment (EA):</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>• Extended response — analytical essay based on Unit 3 Topic 2</td>
<td>• Examination — extended response — analytical essay based on Unit 4 Topic 2</td>
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Texts

There are no set textbooks for this subject.