

UNITS 3 & 4 PHILOSOPHY

VCE Philosophy contains a broad introduction to Western philosophy and its methods of inquiry. It investigates how we should live by examining what a good life is for the individual and the community, and what it means to believe well.

UNIT 3

This unit considers the crucial question of what it is for a human to live well. It explores questions of relevance to our own good lives – what is happiness? What role should pleasure and self-discipline, friendship and love play in the good life? – as well questions regarding the good life as it may be understood within the context of our relationships with others beyond our immediate communities.

AREA OF STUDY

The Good Life and the Individual

The Good Life and Others

Outcome 1: On completion of this unit, students should be able to discuss philosophical questions related to the good life and the individual. Concepts used in discussion of the good life as relevant to the set texts, such as altruism, authenticity blame, creativity, duty, egoism, freedom, happiness, hedonism, human nature, meaningfulness, morality, pain, pleasure, praise, self-restraint, teleology, values, virtue and wisdom

Outcome 2: On completion of this unit, students should be able to discuss philosophical questions related to the good life and others. Concepts used in discussion of the good life as relevant to the set texts, such as altruism, care, the common good, dependence, duty, ethics, equality, fairness, freedom, human nature, injustice, justice, morality, obligation, reciprocity, rights, society and values.

UNIT 4

This unit focuses on interpersonal aspects of belief and belief formation, considering what it means to believe well by examining the nature of belief and the grounds for accepting or rejecting beliefs. Across 2 areas of study, students explore what our obligations are in relation to belief; when we should adjust or change our beliefs; and to what extent we should take responsibility for fostering the good beliefs of others and the conditions that make them possible.

AREA OF STUDY

Foundations of Belief

Contemporary Applications

Outcome 1: On completion of this unit, students should be able to discuss philosophical questions relating to belief, belief formation and justification, and discuss the interrelationship between believing well and living well. Concepts used in discussion of belief, belief formation and justification as relevant to the set texts, such as knowledge, belief, perspective, experience, testimony, expertise, truth, trust, consensus, authority, fact, reason, intuition, perception, influence, falsity, peer disagreement, epistemic justice, epistemic injustice, epistemic community

Outcome 2: On completion of this unit, students should be able to discuss case studies in light of epistemological issues associated with belief, belief formation and justification.