

UNIT 1 & 2 PHILOSOPHY

VCE Philosophy contains a broad introduction to Western philosophy and its methods of inquiry. It explores themes and debates within metaphysics, epistemology and value theory, as well as techniques of reasoning and argument drawn from formal and informal logic.

UNIT 1

This unit engages students with fundamental philosophical questions through active, guided investigation and critical discussion of 2 key areas of philosophy: epistemology and metaphysics. The emphasis is on philosophical inquiry – 'doing philosophy' – through the formulation and exploration of questions in philosophical exchanges with others.

AREA OF STUDY

The Nature and Methods of Philosophy

Metaphysics (Minds and Bodies, Personal Identity)

Epistemology

Outcome 1: On completion of this unit, students should be able to analyse the distinctive nature of philosophy and recognise and apply techniques of philosophical reasoning.

Outcome 2: On completion of this unit, students should be able to analyse metaphysical problems relating to minds, bodies and personal identity and evaluate viewpoints and arguments arising from these and analyse metaphysical problems in relevant contemporary debates.

Outcome 3: On completion of this unit, the student should be able to analyse epistemological problems and evaluate viewpoints and arguments arising from these, and analyse epistemological problems in relevant contemporary debates.

UNIT 2

This unit enables students to explore these questions in relation to different categories of value judgment within the realms of morality, political and social philosophy and aesthetics. Students also explore ways in which viewpoints and arguments in value theory can inform and be informed by contemporary debates.

AREA OF STUDY

Ethics and Morality

Further Problems in Value Theory (Art and Aesthetics)

Philosophy: It's Nature, Purpose and Value

Outcome 1: On completion of this unit, students should be able to analyse problems in ethics and moral philosophy and related contemporary debates, evaluate viewpoints and arguments in response to these problems, and explain the interplay between ethical and moral problems and contemporary ethical and moral debates.

Outcome 2: On completion of this unit, students should be able to analyse selected problems in value theory and evaluate viewpoints and arguments in response to these problems, and discuss philosophical issues in the context of relevant contemporary debates in regards to art and aesthetics.

Outcome 3: On completion of this unit, the student should be able to explain and evaluate the nature, purpose and value of philosophy.