
VCE UNITS INFORMATION

VCE Philosophy Units 1 and 2

The focus of this unit is to explore the nature of reality, how we acquire knowledge and the foundations of our judgements about value. As students learn to think philosophically, appropriate examples of philosophical viewpoints and arguments, both contemporary and historical, are used to support, stimulate and enhance their thinking about central concepts and problems.

Philosophy explores some of the most enduring and influential ideas that underpin some of society's greatest achievements in ethics, science and the arts. This, together with learning to think critically and with an open mind, fosters the reflection necessary for deep insights and ethical decision-making at all levels of society.

CONTENT

Unit 1: Existence, Knowledge and Reasoning

- Students investigate relevant debates in applied epistemology and metaphysics, considering whether the philosophical base of these debates continue to have relevance in a contemporary society and our everyday lives
- Students are engaged with fundamental philosophical questions through active, guided investigation and critical discussion
- The emphasis is on philosophical inquiry – ‘doing philosophy’ – and hence the study and practice of techniques of logic are central to this unit

Unit 2: Questions of Value

- Students explore the foundations of our judgments about value and the relationship between different types of value
- Students learn to apply, defend and criticise value judgments
- These questions are explored in relation to different categories of value judgments 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

ASSESSMENT

- Essays
- Written reflections and analysis
- Dialogue and group work (oral/written)
- Multi-modal presentations
- Short answer responses
- Mid year and end of year examination