

VCE Philosophy

2019–2023

Written examination – End of year

Examination specifications

Overall conditions

The examination will be sat at a time and date to be set annually by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority (VCAA). VCAA examination rules will apply. Details of these rules are published annually in the *VCE and VCAL Administrative Handbook*.

There will be 15 minutes reading time and 2 hours writing time.

The examination will be marked by a panel appointed by the VCAA.

The examination will contribute 50 per cent to the study score.

Content

The *VCE Philosophy Study Design 2019–2023* is the document for the development of the examination. All outcomes in Units 3 and 4 will be examined.

All of the key knowledge and key skills that underpin the outcomes in Units 3 and 4 are examinable.

Format

The examination will be in the form of a question and answer book.

The examination will consist of three sections.

Section A will consist of short-answer and extended-response questions, including questions with multiple parts. Questions will be derived from both Units 3 and 4. Section A will be worth a total of 30 marks.

Section B will consist of two extended-response questions derived from Unit 3. Section B will be worth a total of 20 marks.

Section C will consist of two essay questions derived from Unit 4. Students must attempt **one** of these essay questions. Section C will be worth 20 marks.

The examination may include questions that refer to written and/or visual stimulus material.

The total marks for the examination will be 70.

Answers are to be recorded in the spaces provided in the question and answer book.

Criteria

The essay in Section C will be assessed against the following criteria:

- knowledge and understanding of philosophical concepts, viewpoints, arguments and debates relevant to the topic
- critical evaluation of ideas and arguments relevant to the topic
- selection and use of relevant material and appropriate examples to support the response
- development of a coherent and well-reasoned response that addresses the specific demands of the topic
- use of clear and precise language appropriate to philosophy

Approved materials and equipment

Pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers

Relevant references

The following publications should be referred to in relation to the VCE Philosophy examination:

- *VCE Philosophy Study Design 2019–2023*
- *VCE Philosophy – Advice for teachers 2019–2023*
- *VCAA Bulletin*

Advice

During the 2019–2023 accreditation period for VCE Philosophy, examinations will be prepared according to the examination specifications above. Each examination will conform to these specifications and will test a representative sample of the key knowledge and key skills from all outcomes in Units 3 and 4.

Students should use command/task words, other instructional information within questions and corresponding mark allocations to guide their responses.

A separate document containing a sample examination has been published on the 'Philosophy – Exams and Examination Reports' page on the VCAA website.

The sample examination provides an indication of the format of the examination, and the types of questions teachers and students can expect until the current accreditation period is over.

The VCAA does not provide answers to sample examinations.