Information about the 2012 examination

The examination will be based on the Philosophy & Reason Senior External Syllabus 2004. It will consist of two papers. Each paper will have 10 minutes perusal/planning time and 3 hours working time.

Paper One

Paper One will consist of three parts:

- Part A: Deductive Logic — Propositional Logic
- Part B: Deductive Logic — Monadic and Dyadic Logic
- Part C: Critical Reasoning — Probability and Causation.

Paper Two

Paper Two will consist of two parts:

- Part A: Critical Reasoning (major inductive argument types; fallacies of reasoning)
- Part B: Philosophy.

Part B: Philosophy

Candidates will be required to respond in essay form to two questions. Each essay should be approximately 600 words in length.

Question 1 will be about ethics/moral philosophy. Candidates must be familiar with the principles of Kantian ethics and utilitarianism. Candidates must respond to Question 1, which will not be provided before the examination.

Questions 2–5 will cover a range of Philosophy topics. Candidates must respond to one question. Questions 2–5 are attached to allow candidates to undertake research during the year and to plan their responses before the examination.

Material that is not relevant will not gain credit. Any examples or references used in responses must be of appropriate length.

Candidates are not permitted to bring notes into the examination room.

Level of achievement

Each candidate’s level of achievement will be determined by applying the syllabus standards to an overall assessment of responses across both Paper One and Paper Two.
Enquiries

Telephone (07) 3864 0211 or email externalexams@qsa.qld.edu.au.

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Paper Two Part B

Question 2 — Philosophy of religion

Either

Name and set out one of the traditional arguments for the existence of God.
Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of this argument, comparing and contrasting with other named arguments.

or

Set out the problem that the existence of evil poses against belief in the existence of God.
Discuss the problem, presenting some of the typical philosophical responses.

Question 3 — Philosophy of science

Outline the traditional problem of induction and, through a discussion of at least one well-known "solution", assess the relevance of the "problem" to science.

Question 4 — Social and political philosophy

What does it mean to be free?
Compare the interpretation of the concept of freedom in two major political philosophies.

Question 5 — Philosophy of mind

Explain the main differences between dualist theories and materialist theories as responses to the mind–body problem. Name the individual theories included in your explanation.