Philosophy and Reason
Subject guide 2014

What is Philosophy and Reason all about?
Philosophy and Reason Senior Syllabus 2014 combines the discipline of Philosophy with the associated skills of critical thinking and logic.

The study of Philosophy recognises the relevance of various philosophies to different social, ethical and religious positions, and to realise that decisions in these areas are the result of the acceptance of certain ideas and specific modes of reasoning.

Critical thinking and logic provides knowledge, skills and understandings so that you are able to engage with philosophical ideas and issues, examine and analyse these, make rational arguments, espouse viewpoints and engage in informed discussion.

What will you learn?
In Philosophy and Reason you will explore, discuss and consider philosophical ideas that have shaped and continue to influence contemporary society by investigating philosophers’ and thinkers’ ideas and work across a range of topics.

You will study at least three topics from the following: Causation, Moral philosophy, Philosophy of art, Philosophy of mind, Philosophy of religion, Philosophy of science, Social and political philosophy, and Thinkers and schools of thought.

To help you to understand, interpret, analyse and evaluate philosophical viewpoints and to develop your own, you will study a Core Topic that is embedded across the course called Fundamentals of argument. Fundamentals of argument examines argument structure and how propositions and arguments are analysed and evaluated through the use of inductive and deductive reasoning, identification of fallacies and the tools of formal logic.

How will you learn?
You will learn to understand and use reasoning to develop coherent personal and world views. You will be asked to reflect on the nature of your decisions as well as how you respond to the views of others.

In Philosophy and Reason you will analyse arguments from a variety of sources and contexts, determining what constitutes effective reasoning. You will formalise arguments, choose appropriate problem-solving techniques and attempt to solve problems through argument.

You will study the work of philosophers, reflect on the past, while relating events to contemporary society and your own perceptions, explore current issues and discuss the relationships each has to the other.

How will you be assessed?
Assessment in Philosophy and Reason gives you opportunities to demonstrate knowledge and understanding, application and analysis, and evaluation and synthesis.
In Philosophy and Reason, assessment instruments include extended responses, which may be research tasks or response to stimulus, and examinations. Extended responses may be presented in a variety of modes, including spoken, written or multi-modal.

In Year 12, you will be expected to complete a minimum of four and a maximum of six assessment instruments including at least one examination, requiring an extended response to an unseen question, a written extended response and at least one other written response.

**How can parents/carers help?**

Your parents/carers may help you by:

- discussing different views of current Philosophy and Reason issues with you
- encouraging and helping you find suitable websites, documentaries, journals and other resources
- encouraging you to take part in school-based activities, including field trips, and extracurricular activities
- offering their services as guest speakers if they are involved in this area of study or related industry
- encouraging safe and ethical behaviour
- contacting your school to establish communication with your teachers to help understand the work undertaken at senior level, and to become familiar with assessment requirements.

**Where can Philosophy and Reason take you?**

This subject contributes four credits towards the Queensland Certificate of Education (QCE). If you would like to learn more about this certificate, please visit the QCE page on the QCAA website [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/589.html](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/589.html).

A course of study in Philosophy and Reason can establish a basis for further education and employment in the fields of law, medicine, psychology, philosophy, journalism, teaching, politics, creative arts and engineering. The development of thinking skills in Philosophy and Reason establishes the transferrable skills of critical thinking and would support post school participation in a wide range of fields.


**More information**

This subject guide relates to courses developed from the Philosophy and Reason Senior Syllabus 2014. If you would like more information, please:

- visit the subject page on the QCAA website [www.qcaa.qld.edu.au](http://www.qcaa.qld.edu.au) and search for ‘Philosophy and Reason’.
- email senior.syllabuses@qcaa.qld.edu.au.