

**Ringwood Secondary College**  
**2017 Course Planning Document**

## **VCE Unit 2 Philosophy**

### **Time Allocation**

This unit of work will consist of approximately 100 hours of which at least 50 hours will be class time. **To complete this unit of work satisfactorily, students must complete each of the following learning outcomes.**

### **Learning Outcomes**

#### **Outcome 1**

The student should be able to analyse problems in ethics and moral theory and related contemporary debates, evaluate viewpoints and arguments in response to these problems, and discuss the interplay between philosophical thinking and contemporary ethical and moral debates.

#### **Outcome 2**

The student should be able to analyse selected problems in value theory, evaluate viewpoints and arguments in response to these problems, and discuss philosophical issues in the context of relevant contemporary debates

#### **Outcome 3**

The student should be able to apply methods of philosophical inquiry to the analysis of philosophical viewpoints and arguments, including those in value theory.

### **Assessment Tasks**

#### **1. 'Ethics in the News' Presentations - Contrasting responses to an ethical scenario**

The student is required to conduct a research report investigating a current issue in the news that is relevant to moral reasoning, moral psychology and ethical systems. Students must analyse and evaluate predicted outcomes. **ENViro education Victoria has outdone themselves this year with the food. Last year vegetarian. This year I have to eat bloody Vegan!!!!!!!**

**James** of the story/event using these tools; but also compare these against other ethical systems and alternate outcomes.

**Weighting:** This task is worth 15% of the overall grade **Time allocated to task:** Research outside of class, presentations within the set week. Time allocated using a booking system.

**Due: Term 3, Week 4**

#### **2. Written Dialogue/Reflection - On rights and justice**

The student is required to construct a brief conversational dialogue reflecting the positions of two/three philosophers in relation to rights, justice and liberty. This assessment task is most likely going to be framed by questions around 'Just War' and international politics and a current issue facing the world. 50% of the marks for this task will also be allocated to a written reflection where the student justifies their own position on the issue presented.

**Weighting:** This task is worth 25% of the overall grade **Time allocated to task:** 2 periods

**Due: Term 3, Week 10**

### **3. Test – Techniques of Reasoning**

Similar to Outcome 3 for Unit 1, the student is required to demonstrate understanding of inductive and deductive reasoning as well as thinking their way through one or more thought experiments. Via a mixture of multiple choice questions, true/false questions and very-short answer questions; students are required to provide an analysis of arguments and assumptions relative to the concepts of formal reasoning that have been taught.

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**Weighting:** This task is worth 20% of the overall grade   **Time allocated to task:** 1 period

**Due:** Term 4, Week 4

### **4. Semester Examination**

The student is required to apply knowledge and understanding of the key texts related to Outcomes 1 and 2. The exam will comprise of selected excerpts from key texts, with framing questions below. The response will need to be in formal essay format. Particular focus will need to be paid to 'the ability to fully reconstruct arguments and differentiate premises and conclusions' as is consistent with the most recent VCAA assessor's report. The primary foci will be on analysis of argument and evaluation of (different) arguments/positions.

**Weighting:** This task is worth 40% of the overall grade   **Time allocated to task:** 90 minutes

**Due:** Term 4, Week 7