What is Philosophy all about?

VCE Philosophy is a challenging study which is more than merely offering one's opinion on a range of ideas. It is a rigorous study that encourages accurate comprehension of complex ideas, clarity of thought and precision in expression. Students choosing this subject must have good skills in reading, writing and analysing challenging content. Unit 1 provides a broad introduction to Philosophy, exploring themes and debates in Metaphysics about the soul, mind and body and what ‘reality’ actually means. In Epistemology, the course addresses questions about what knowledge is, different ways of knowing, and whether or not we can ever really ‘know’ anything. Unit 2 focuses on ideas of ‘wrong’ and ‘right’ and looks at different Value Theories as well as techniques of reasoning and argument.

Areas of Study:

Unit 1:
• Logic and reasoning
• Metaphysics – The Nature of Reality
• Metaphysics – Mind and Body
• Epistemology – On knowledge
• Epistemology – On science

Unit 2:
• Techniques of Reasoning
• Ethics and Moral Philosophy – On the Foundations of Morality
• Ethics and Moral Philosophy – On Right and Wrong
• Further problems in Value Theory – On Rights and Justice
• Further problems in Value Theory – On Liberty and Anarchy (The social contract)

Unit 3:
• Minds and bodies
• Are human beings more than their bodies?
• Personal identity
• Does and individual remain the same person over time?

Unit 4:
• Conceptions of the good life
• What is the role of happiness in a well-lived life?
• Living the good life in the twenty-first century
• How does our social context impact on our conception of a good life?

Type of Assessments in this subject:
• Essay
• Written Analysis
• Test
• Short answer responses
• Written exercises
• Written reflection

Key Skills developed through this area are:
• Logical and critical thinking
• Empathy and respect for cultural diversity

Possible Occupations that could relate to this study include:
Writer  Journalist  Historian  Clerical  Lawyer
Politician  Teacher  Diplomat  Criminologist

Interested (tick) □