



OFFICE OF TASMANIAN  
ASSESSMENT, STANDARDS  
& CERTIFICATION

Tasmanian Certificate of Education  
External Assessment 2017

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# PHILOSOPHY

## (PHL315113)

### Time allowed for this paper

- Working time: 3 hours
- Plus 15 minutes recommended reading time

Pages:	8
Questions:	15

### Candidate Instructions

1. You **MUST** make sure that your responses to the questions in this examination paper will show your achievement in the criteria being assessed.
2. There are **FIVE** sections to this paper.
3. You must answer:
  - **ALL** questions from **Section A**, in short answer form
  - **BOTH** questions from **Section B**, in short answer form
  - **ONE** question from **Section C**, in essay form
  - **ONE** question from **Section D**, in essay form
  - **ONE** question from **Section E**, in essay form
4. Answer each section in a separate answer booklet.
5. The recommended time to be spent on a section is given in the instructions in that section.
6. All written responses must be in English.

On the basis of your performance in this examination, the examiners will provide results on each of the following criteria taken from the course statement:

- Criterion 1** Communicates philosophical ideas and information.
- Criterion 2** Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of philosophical ideas.
- Criterion 3** Explains the logic and reasoning used in philosophical arguments.
- Criterion 4** Evaluates the relative strengths and weaknesses of philosophical arguments.

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# SECTION A

Answer **ALL** questions in this section.

**Use a separate answer booklet for this section.**

It is recommended you spend approximately **15 minutes** on this section.

This section assesses **Criteria 1 and 2**.

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## EPISTEMOLOGY

### Question 1

How does a Rationalist believe we acquire knowledge?

### Question 2

Give an example of an inductive argument and describe how it differs from a deductive argument.

### Question 3

How does knowing differ from believing?

## SECTION B

Answer **BOTH** questions in this section.

**Use a separate answer booklet for this section.**

It is recommended you spend approximately **30 minutes** on this section.

This section assesses **Criteria 1, 2 and 3.**

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### FREE WILL

#### Question 4

Outline and explain how Compatibilism (Soft Determinism) differs from Hard Determinism.

#### Question 5

Outline and explain the main arguments Libertarians use to justify their view that Free Will exists.

## SECTION C

Answer **ONE** question from this section.

**Use a separate answer booklet for this section.**

It is recommended you spend approximately **45 minutes** on this section.

This section assesses **Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4.**

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### MIND/BODY

#### Question 6

Choose and outline a Dualist explanation of the Mind/Body problem.

Explain the logic and reasoning behind and evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of this explanation. Does this argument ultimately convince you it is the best explanation of the Mind/Body problem?

Evaluate this explanation with reference to a range of philosophers.

#### Question 7

Choose and outline **either** Identity Theory **or** Functionalism **or** Behaviourism.

With the Monist theory chosen, explain the logic and reasoning behind its interpretation of what the mind is and how it works. Analyse the reasons why many philosophers would support your chosen theory and consider and assess the major objections to your choice. On balance, does your chosen theory provide a convincing explanation of what the mind is and how it works?

Evaluate this theory with reference to a range of philosophers.

#### Question 8

Choose and outline **one or more** of the major thought experiments in Philosophy of Mind (such as the Chinese Room, Mary in the Black and White Room or Philosophical Zombies)

Explain the reasoning behind your chosen thought experiment(s), evaluating the challenges to Monism with reference to a range of philosophers.

## SECTION D

Answer **ONE** question from this section.

**Use a separate answer booklet for this section.**

It is recommended you spend approximately **45 minutes** on this section.

This section assesses **Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4.**

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### LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

#### Question 9

Outline the logic and reasoning behind the Teleological (Design) Argument and explain how supporters of this Argument have responded to the challenges posed by evolution. Through an examination of the strengths and the weaknesses of the Argument, evaluate the claim that the Argument has been convincingly refuted by evolution.

Justify your response referring to a range of philosophers.

#### Question 10

The Cosmological Argument infers that there must have been a first cause in the chain of events that has led to the universe as it is today.

Outline and explain the logic and reasoning behind this Argument and arguments used by supporters of the Big Bang Theory. Evaluate the contention that the Big Bang Theory provides a convincing scientific answer to the problem of explaining the first cause.

Justify your response referring to a range of philosophers.

#### Question 11

Outline and explain the logic and reasoning behind the scientific method and how it differs from faith-based belief.

Evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of both. Which do you find the more convincing and why?

Justify your response referring to a range of philosophers.

## SECTION E

Answer **ONE** question from this section.

**Use a separate answer booklet for this section.**

It is recommended you spend approximately **45 minutes** on this section.

This section assesses **Criteria 1, 2, 3 and 4.**

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### PHILOSOPHERS AND THE GOOD LIFE

#### Question 12

According to Thoreau, 'the mass of men lead lives of quiet desperation'. Why did Thoreau provide this diagnosis of the human condition and what was his prescription to overcome this state of affairs and, hence, to lead a good life? How would you evaluate the criticism that 'Thoreau was just a dreamer'?

#### Question 13

Outline and explain how Schopenhauer arrives at the conclusion that 'we should not be surprised by marriages between people who would never have been friends'.

Discuss how and why he thinks we are directed by our Will to Life (Wille zum Leben) and explain how he believes we should in fact live our lives.

Evaluate the commonly-held perception that he was unduly pessimistic.

#### Question 14

Montaigne believed that for each of us to lead a good life, we need to know ourselves and to accept ourselves as we are.

Through a discussion and an explanation of some of his observations and assertions in his essays, particularly on the roles our bodies and our reasoning play in leading a good life, evaluate whether Montaigne was, as claimed by some, 'the wisest of men'?

#### Question 15

Nietzsche believed that our character is formed from our struggles through adversity and he wrote, 'to those human beings who are of any concern to me I wish suffering'.

Outline and explain why he made this seemingly outlandish claim and discuss how it fits in with his view of the human condition.

Evaluate Nietzsche's prescription of how to live a good life.



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