



OFFICE OF TASMANIAN
ASSESSMENT, STANDARDS
& CERTIFICATION

Tasmanian Certificate of Education
External Assessment 2018

PLACE YOUR CANDIDATE
LABEL HERE

PHILOSOPHY

(PHL315118)

Time allowed for this paper

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

Pages:	8
Questions:	14

Candidate Instructions

You **MUST** make sure that your responses to the questions in this examination paper will show your achievement in the criteria being assessed.

There are **FOUR** sections to this paper.

You must answer:

- ONE** question from **Section A**, in essay form
- ONE** question from **Section B**, in essay form
- ONE** question from **Section C**, in essay form
- ONE** question from **Section D**, in essay form

Answer each section in a separate answer booklet.

The recommended time to be spent on a section is given in the instructions in that section.

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 concepts.
- Criterion 2** Use philosophical ideas and concepts in discussing philosophical arguments.
- Criterion 3** Describe and explain philosophical arguments.
- Criterion 4** Use evidence to support philosophical arguments.
- Criterion 5** Apply philosophical ideas and concepts to contemporary issues.

SECTION A

Select and answer **ONE** question in 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 and 4.**

MIND / BODY

Question 1

Using evidence to support your arguments, evaluate the relative strengths and weaknesses of a Monist position on the mind/body problem.

Question 2

Provide a definition of Cartesian Dualism and explain how Descartes arrived at his position on the mind/body problem. Explain the problem of interaction faced by Cartesian Dualism. Using evidence, assess the worth of physicalist criticisms of the problem of interaction.

Question 3

The concept of qualia is at the forefront of modern debate on the mind/body problem. Through an explanation and discussion of at least one thought experiment relevant to qualia, use evidence to assess Dennett's claim that "sensations exist, but qualia do not".

SECTION B

Select and answer **ONE** question in 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, 3 and 4.**

FREE WILL

Question 4

Describe and explain the arguments of at least one philosopher who is a proponent/supporter of Hard Determinism. Using evidence, evaluate their view that Free Will is just an illusion.

Question 5

Describe and explain how a Compatibilist approaches the issue of Free Will and Determinism. Is Compatibilism just an uneasy compromise between Libertarianism and Hard Determinism; in other words, is it wishful thinking with little concrete evidence to support it?

Question 6

Do those who commit criminal offences deserve to be punished? Using evidence, explain and evaluate how **both** a proponent of Free Will and a Hard Determinist would respond to this question.

SECTION C

Select and 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 2, 3 and 5**.

CONTEMPORARY CONFLICTS IN MORAL THEORY

OR

LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

Question 7

Select an ethical issue that is contentious in current (21st century) society. Describe and explain how at least two ethical frameworks would approach your chosen issue.

Question 8

In the 21st century, what are the significant differences between two major ethical frameworks? Which is stronger and why?

Question 9

Contemporary discussions about the Cosmological Argument for the origins of the universe centre on the Big Bang Theory. Describe and explain the Cosmological Argument and describe and explain some of the scientific evidence behind the Big Bang Theory.

How do more contemporary proponents/supporters of the Cosmological Argument (such as Plantinga, William Lane Craig and Swinburne) respond to the Big Bang Theory?

Question 10

Richard Dawkins in *The Blind Watchmaker* stated that:

“Evolution has no long-term goal. There is no long-distance target, no final perfection to serve as a criterion for selection, although human vanity cherishes the absurd notion that our species is the final goal of evolution.”

Explain why Dawkins and others hold this view. Explain and evaluate how contemporary supporters of the Teleological (Design) Argument/Anthropic Argument may dispute and contest Dawkins' statement.

SECTION D

Select and 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, 3 and 4.**

THE GOOD LIFE

Question 11

Michel de Montaigne wrote that:

“My life has been full of terrible misfortunes most of which have never happened.”

Through an examination of Montaigne’s statement, describe and explain his views on the roles, real and imagined, that our bodies and our reasoning play in helping us achieve the good life.

In your response, briefly discuss the proposition that Montaigne has nothing more to offer us than the advice from a contemporary celebrity or social media influencer.

Question 12

Alain de Botton in *The Consolations of Philosophy* summed up Schopenhauer’s view on romantic love as follows:

“We pursue love affairs, chats in cafes with prospective partners and have children, with as much choice in the matter as moles and ants - and are rarely any happier.”

Describe and explain how Schopenhauer reached this conclusion, and discuss whether romantic love is a necessary part of the good life.

In your response, briefly discuss the fairness of the proposition that Schopenhauer’s views arose because he was just a pessimist who was unsuccessful in love.

Question 13

“That which does not kill us makes us stronger.”

Expand on what Nietzsche meant by this observation. What evidence did he use to reach that conclusion?

Do you think the above quote is an essential part of the path to a good life?

In your response, briefly discuss the view that Nietzsche’s view is less relevant in today’s society.

Section D continues.

Section D (continued)

Question 14

Henry David Thoreau said:

“I believe there is a subtle magnetism in Nature, which, if we unconsciously yield to it, will direct us right.”

Describe and explain the role of the natural world in achieving the good life according to Thoreau.

Briefly discuss the proposition that Thoreau was just a middle-class dreamer.

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