



OFFICE OF TASMANIAN
ASSESSMENT, STANDARDS
& CERTIFICATION

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PHILOSOPHY

(PHL315118)

Time Allowed:

- 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 (4 booklets in total) and indicate which question number you have answered.
- 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 document:

- Criterion 1** Communicate 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.

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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 **Criterion 1, 2 and 3**.

MIND/BODY

Question 1

Using the views of philosophers you have studied in this unit, outline the ideas and concepts used by **either** a Substance Dualist **or** a Property Dualist to support their position. Critically evaluate the strengths of their arguments and describe and explain the major reasons why Monists reject their position.

OR

Question 2

Select at least one (1) thought experiment on mind/body you have studied this year. Describe and explain the reasoning philosopher(s) have used in constructing and explaining their thought experiment(s) and critically evaluate the arguments that attempt to refute them.

OR

Question 3

“Philosophers often use the term ‘qualia’ to refer to the introspectively accessible, phenomenal aspects of our mental lives. In this standard, broad sense of the term, it is difficult to deny that there are qualia”

M. Tye, Stanford Encyclopaedia of Philosophy

In reference to the above quote, explain why there is still so much discussion and debate about qualia. Using the points of view of philosophers you have studied, describe and explain an argument in favour of the existence of qualia and critically evaluate its worth.

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 **Criterion 1, 3 and 4**.

FREE WILL

Question 4

“Free Will is so obvious. You have complete freedom to walk out of this exam”.

Describe and explain how a supporter of Free Will would defend this assertion. How and why would a Hard Determinist challenge the statement? Evaluate the strengths and flaws in their response.

OR

Question 5

“Compatibilism is the idea that necessary causes and voluntary actions are compatible”.

Describe and explain how Compatibilists justify their rejection of Hard Determinism. Using evidence, evaluate the strengths and limitations you see in this “softening” of the Hard Determinist view.

OR

Question 6

“If our lives are determined, why should punishment still exist?”

Describe and explain how a Compatibilist would approach the issue of punishment. Using evidence, explain how a Hard Determinist **and/or** a supporter of Free Will could criticise the views of a Compatibilist on this issue and evaluate the strengths and limitations of their argument.

SECTION C

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 **Criterion 1, 4 and 5**.

CONTEMPORARY CONFLICTS IN MORAL THEORY

OR

LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

Question 7

Select one of the core moral/ethical theories:

Either Moral Relativism **or** Moral Nihilism **or** Deontology **or** Consequentialism

Apply it to a contemporary issue of your choice. Outline the ideas and concepts that underlie your chosen core moral/ethical theory and critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of the moral/ethical theory selected in relation to your chosen issue.

OR

Question 8

Select one of the “other” moral/ethical theories:

Either Preference Utilitarianism **or** the Capabilities Approach **or** Virtue Ethics **or** Existentialist Ethics **or** Feminist Ethics

Apply it to a contemporary issue of your choice. Outline the ideas and concepts that underlie your chosen core moral/ethical theory and critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of the moral/ethical theory selected in relation to your chosen issue.

OR

Question 9

What are some of the strengths of the Big Bang Theory? How have traditional Cosmological Arguments been challenged by the Big Bang Theory? Using the Cosmological Argument/Big Bang Theory debate, critically evaluate the opinion that “faith can answer the ‘why’ questions where science is limited to ‘how’”.

OR

Question 10

Evolution and the Teleological Argument offer differing arguments about the origin of human life and our place in the universe. Using evidence, outline the major features of both arguments and critically evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of **either** Intelligent Design **or** the Anthropic Principle **or** Natural Selection.

SECTION D

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 **Criterion 1, 2 and 5**.

THE GOOD LIFE

Question 11

According to Simone de Beauvoir, many women are prevented from leading good lives. Outline the ideas and concepts behind de Beauvoir's assertion and evaluate her solution of empowering women to liberate themselves through authentically free actions. Analyse de Beauvoir's philosophy and its relevance to contemporary society.

OR

Question 12

In the *Will to Power*, Nietzsche said,

"To those human beings who are of any concern to me I wish suffering, desolation, sickness, ill-treatment, indignities"

What ideas and concepts did Nietzsche use to arrive at this conclusion? Evaluate the criticisms that can be made of this assertion. Analyse the view that Nietzsche's assertion is not as relevant or as necessary in contemporary society.

OR

Question 13

Thoreau's "formula" for the good life involved living simply and in harmony with nature. Discuss the ideas and concepts behind this "formula" and analyse the view that his emphasis on individuality is a problem in today's more complex society.

OR

Question 14

Montaigne was concerned with the daily realities of being human and the role of common sense and wisdom in approaching those daily realities. Describe the ideas and concepts behind that which Montaigne considered necessary for a good life. Analyse the value and importance of Montaigne's "formula" for a good life in today's more complex society.

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