



OFFICE OF TASMANIAN
ASSESSMENT, STANDARDS
& CERTIFICATION

Tasmanian Certificate of Education
External Assessment 2020

PLACE YOUR CANDIDATE
LABEL HERE

PHILOSOPHY

(PHL315118)

Time Recommended:

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

Pages:	8
Questions:	14

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 **THREE** sections to this paper.
3. 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.
4. Answer each section in a separate answer booklet (THREE booklets in total) and indicate which question number you have answered.
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 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 **60 minutes** on this section.

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

MIND/BODY

OR

FREE WILL

Question 1

Select **ONE** (1) of the key philosophical theories that relates to the topic of Mind/Body and describe and explain that theory's response to the mind/body question. You must also discuss at least **ONE** (1) major criticism of that theory and the response to that criticism. You must include the views of at least **ONE** (1) philosopher who supports that theory.

OR

Question 2

Select **ONE** (1) thought experiment that relates to the mind/body question. Explain the experiment and describe and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of that thought experiment. With reference to the views of at least **ONE** (1) philosopher, briefly explain what your chosen thought experiment says about the complexity of the mind/body question.

OR

Question 3

Provide a definition and explanation of qualia. With reference to the views of at least **ONE** (1) philosopher, discuss the proposition that qualia do not exist and that there is nothing more to perceptual experience than the physical domain.

OR

Section A continues.

Section A (continued).

Question 4

What is meant by free will? Using evidence and referring to arguments from philosophers, discuss why so many believe that free will is just an illusion. Evaluate both the strengths of and the flaws in their arguments.

OR

Question 5

What do compatibilists believe? Using evidence and referring to arguments from philosophers, evaluate both the strengths of and the flaws in the opinion that compatibilism is an inadequate attempt to justify the illusion that humans have the freedom to make choices in a deterministic world.

OR

Question 6

How do the advocates of free will, compatibilism and hard determinism, respectively, approach the complex issue of the punishment of human actions? Using evidence and referring to arguments from philosophers, outline your position on the issue and evaluate both the strengths of and possible flaws in your position.

SECTION B

Select and answer **ONE** question in this section.

Use a separate answer booklet for this section.

It is recommended you spend approximately **60 minutes** on this section.

This section assesses **Criteria 1, 4 and 5**.

CONTEMPORARY CONFLICTS IN MORAL THEORY

OR

LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

Question 7

Select and outline an ethical issue that is still a subject of debate in 2020. Select at least **ONE** (1) ethical/moral framework. Outline the ideas and concepts that underlie your chosen core moral/ethical theory (theories). Critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of the moral/ethical theory (theories) selected in relation to your chosen issue, by reference to a contrasting ethical/moral framework.

OR

Question 8

Using evidence based on at least **TWO** (2) ethical/moral theories, discuss how those theories would respond to an important ethical issue in 2020. Critically evaluate the strengths and limitations of the moral/ethical theories you have selected in relation to your chosen issue.

OR

Question 9

In relation to the theories about the origins of the universe and their evidence, critically evaluate the ways in which traditional cosmological arguments have been challenged by the Big Bang theory.

OR

Question 10

In relation to the theories about the origins of human life and their evidence, critically evaluate the ways in which traditional teleological (design) arguments have been challenged by the theory of evolution.

SECTION C

Select and answer **ONE** question in this section.

Use a separate answer booklet for this section.

It is recommended you spend approximately **60 minutes** on this section.

This section assesses **Criteria 1, 2 and 5**.

THE GOOD LIFE

Question 11

"I do not care so much for what I am to others as I care for what I am to myself." **Montaigne**

With reference to the above quote from Montaigne, outline and explain his views about the roles our bodies and our reasoning play in helping us achieve the good life.

Is Montaigne's "prescription" for the good life still relevant in 2020?

OR

Question 12

"One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman." **de Beauvoir**

With reference to the above quote from de Beauvoir, outline and explain her views on the roles that biology and gender play in living the good life.

How relevant is de Beauvoir's analysis to present day Australian society?

OR

Question 13

"What is good? ... the will to power, power itself. What is bad? All that is born of weakness. What is happiness? The feeling that power is growing ... that resistance is overcome." **Nietzsche**

With reference to the above quote from Nietzsche, outline and explain his views on the formation of character and what is necessary for the good life.

Is Nietzsche's "prescription" for the good life still relevant in today's society or is it a relic of previous centuries?

OR

Section C continues.

Section C (continued).

Question 14

“I love nature because she is not a man but a retreat from him. None of his institutions control or pervade her ... [Nature] is freedom to me. [Man] makes me wish for another world. [Nature] makes me content with this.” **Thoreau**

With reference to the above quote from Thoreau, outline and explain his views on the role of the natural world in achieving the good life.

Discuss the proposition that Thoreau’s “prescription” for the good life is more important now than ever before.



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