

EXTERNAL ASSESSMENT SPECIFICATIONS

PHILOSOPHY (PHL315118)

External Assessment Specifications inform the development of external assessments. The primary audience for this document is the course Setting Examiner and Exam Critics. It may also be of use to teachers and students.

These specifications must be read in conjunction with the Course Document.

The external assessment consists of a **3 hour written examination**.

The criteria to be externally assessed are:

- 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

WRITTEN EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

The following specifications for each section are outlined in **Table** below:

- the distribution across the sections of:
 - criteria
 - time allocations
- the number and type of items.

Section	A Mind/Body	B Free Will	C 4.1 and 4.2 Contemporary Conflicts in Moral Theory OR Life, the Universe and Everything	D The Good Life
Criteria	C1: E1, E2, E3 and E4 C2: E2, E4 and E5 C3: E1, E2 and E3	C1: E1, E2, E3 and E4 C3: E1, E2 and E3 C4: E2, E3 and E5	C1: E1, E2, E3 and E4 C4: E2, E3 and E5 C5: E1, E3 and E4	C1: E1, E2, E3 and E4 C2: E2, E4 and E5 C5: E1, E3 and E4
Course Coverage	Unit 2 – Mind/Body	Unit 3 – Free Will	Unit 4 elective units Contemporary Conflicts in Moral Theory OR Life, the Universe and Everything	Unit 5
Number of items	3 Candidates will respond to only one (1) question from a choice of three (3) questions. One question will be set from each of the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • key philosophical theories and their responses to the mind/body question; philosophers representing these views • thought experiments • issues of qualia. 	3 Candidates will respond to only one (1) question from a choice of three (3) questions. One question will be set from each of the following topics: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is free will and contested definitions of it, and how have philosophers addressed it? • Is free will compatible with determinism? 	4 Candidates will respond to only one (1) from a choice of four (4) questions. Questions 1 and 2 based on Unit 4.1, will require evidence and discussion based on responses to ethical issues in contemporary society according to at least two moral theories.	4 Candidates will respond to only one (1) from a choice of four (4) questions. Each question will require discussion that focuses primarily on philosophical ideas, concepts and arguments from the chosen philosopher, but will also require reference to the relevance of these ideas, concepts and arguments to unspecified contemporary issues.

Section	A Mind/Body	B Free Will	C 4.1 and 4.2 Contemporary Conflicts in Moral Theory OR Life, the Universe and Everything	D The Good Life
	Each question may use a <i>brief 'statement'</i> as a stimulus.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the implications of different views on free will for punishment? Each question may use a <i>brief 'statement'</i> as a stimulus.	Questions 3 and 4 based on Unit 4.2. Question 3 should address 'theories for the origin of the universe' and their evidence, and <i>how traditional cosmological arguments have been challenged by the Big Bang theory.</i> Question 4 should address 'theories about the origin of human life' and their evidence, and <i>how design arguments have been challenged by the theory of evolution.</i>	One question for each ' <i>key question</i> ' in Unit 5: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What roles do our bodies and our reasoning play in helping us achieve the good life? (Montaigne) What roles do biology, gender and freedom play in living the good life? (de Beauvoir) What is the role of life's difficulties in the formation of character? (Nietzsche) What is the role of the natural world in achieving the good life? (Thoreau) Each question may use a <i>brief 'statement'</i> as a stimulus.
Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory	Compulsory
Item type(s) format fine	Essay response	Essay response	Essay response	Essay response
Suggested time allocation	45 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes	45 minutes
Rating allocation	All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+, A, A-, ... B+, B, B- ..., C+,C, C- ... t+, t, t- or z. Please note a C- is a low C (i.e. meets the standards for a C but is not a t) Algorithm to achieve final rating from Sections A – D will take account of the fact that each section carries equal weight.			

SPECIFIC MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT APPROVED FOR USE BY CANDIDATES

No materials or equipment required.

ASSESSMENT

A set of solutions or a marking tool will be developed by the Setting Examiner, provided to markers at the marking meeting that follows the external written examination; and will be available from TASC in the following year.

The external assessment must include items that, separately or together, give opportunities to demonstrate the standards from rating C to rating A.

Final results will be awarded as a rating of A, B, C, t or z in the above criteria. These ratings are used in determining the final award according to the algorithm in the course document.

WRITTEN EXAMINATION CHECKLIST

SECTION A:

- assesses examinable aspects of Criteria 1, 2 and 3
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A on identified elements
- includes a representative sample of course content from Unit 2
- one question requires discussion based on *key philosophical theories and their responses to the mind/body question*, one question requires discussion of *mind/body thought experiments* and one question requires discussion of *Issues of qualia*.
- requires an essay response
- comprises three questions/statements that may include a stimulus.

SECTION B:

- assesses examinable aspects of Criteria 1, 3 and 4
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A on identified elements
- includes a representative sample of course content from Unit 3
- questions/statements in this section will be based, one each on the three key questions on 'free will' from the Course Document (Unit 3)
- requires an essay response
- comprises three questions/statements that may include a stimulus.

SECTION C:

- assesses examinable aspects of Criteria 1, 4 and 5
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A on identified elements
- two questions/statements based on ethical issues in contemporary society requiring evidence and discussion according to at least two moral theories (Unit 4.1);
- one question/statement requiring evidence and discussion based on theories for the origin of the universe and how traditional cosmological theories have been challenged by the Big Bang theory (Unit 4.2)
- one question/statement requiring evidence and discussion based on theories about the origin of human life and how design arguments have been challenged by the theory of Evolution (Unit 4.2)
- requires an essay response
- comprises four questions/statements; two related to Unit 4.1 and two related to Unit 4.2.

SECTION D:

- assesses examinable aspects of Criteria 1, 2 and 5
- provides opportunities to demonstrate standards from rating C to rating A on identified elements
- includes a representative sample of course content from Unit 5
- all questions/statements require discussion based on 'how to live a good life' relating to one of four key philosophical theories/concepts studied in Unit 5 each relating to one philosopher
- one question/statement requiring discussion of Montaigne's writings as outlined in the Course Document (Unit 5), and reference to the relevance of his ideas, concepts and arguments to unspecified contemporary issues.
- one question/statement requiring discussion of de Beauvoir's writings as outlined in the Course Document (Unit 5), and reference to the relevance of her ideas, concepts and arguments to unspecified contemporary issues

- one question/statement requiring discussion of Nietzsche's writings as outlined in the Course Document (Unit 5), and reference to the relevance of his ideas, concepts and arguments to unspecified contemporary issues
- one question/statement requiring discussion of Thoreau's writings as outlined in the Course Document (Unit 5), and reference to the relevance of his ideas, concepts and arguments to unspecified contemporary issues
- requires an essay response
- comprises four questions/statements, one each relating to the key topics in Unit 5.