



External Assessment 2021

PHILOSOPHY

PHL315118

Pages	8
Questions	14
Answer Booklets	4

Reading time: 15 minutes – you may begin writing during this time

Suggested working time: 3 hours

Instructions

- There are **four (4)** sections to this exam paper.
- Answer **one (1) question only** from **each section** in **essay form**.
- Answer each section in a **separate answer booklet**.
- All answers must be written in **English**.
- You **must** make sure your answers address:
 - 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.

Guide to Exam Structure

		Questions available	How many questions to answer	Suggested working time	Marks available
Section	A	3	1	45 minutes	All criteria are assessed using extended ratings of A+ to z
Section	B	3	1	45 minutes	
Section	C	4	1	45 minutes	
Section	D	4	1	45 minutes	
	Total	14	4	180 minutes (3 hours)	

Section A

Mind/Body

- Answer **one (1)** question in **essay form** in a **separate answer booklet**.
 - It is suggested that you spend approximately **45 minutes** on this section.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 1, 2 and 3**.
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Question 1

Select **either one (1)** example of a Dualist position on the Mind/Body problem **or one (1)** example of a Monist position on the Mind/Body problem. Describe and explain their response to the Mind/Body problem. Discuss **two (2)** major strengths and **one (1)** major weakness in your chosen Monist or Dualist position.

OR

Question 2

Outline the reasoning behind **one (1)** thought experiment that relates to the Mind/Body problem. Describe and discuss the strengths and weaknesses of that thought experiment.

Briefly discuss the view that thought experiments (as devices of the imagination to investigate our world) do not help to adequately address the mind/body problem.

OR

Question 3

David Chalmers defined qualia as "... the subjective quality of experience". Explain what he meant by this.

Daniel Dennett argued that "Qualia is a philosophers' term which fosters nothing but confusion and refers in the end to no properties or features at all". Explain what he meant by this.

What is your view of qualia? Using the views and opinions of philosophers, outline the strengths of your view and counter some of the criticisms.

Section B

Free Will

- Answer **one (1)** question in **essay form** in a **separate answer booklet**.
 - It is suggested that you spend approximately **45 minutes** on this section.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 1, 3 and 4**.
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Question 4

Do humans ever have the ability to choose freely? Using evidence, and referring to arguments from philosophers, discuss why people believe they have a choice in the way they act. Evaluate the strengths and the weaknesses in the arguments for Libertarianism.

OR

Question 5

How do Compatibilists justify their argument that determinism is compatible with human freedom?

Using evidence, and referring to arguments from philosophers, evaluate the strengths and the weaknesses of their arguments.

OR

Question 6

How would a Hard Determinist regard our current practice of punishing the guilty?

Using evidence and referring to arguments from philosophers, explain how **either** a Libertarian **or** a Compatibilist would challenge a Hard Determinist view. Discuss the strengths and the weaknesses of their challenge.

Section C

Contemporary Conflicts in Moral Theory

OR

Life, The Universe and Everything

- Answer **one (1)** question in **essay form** in a **separate answer booklet**.
 - It is suggested that you spend approximately **45 minutes** on this section.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 1, 4 and 5**.
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Question 7

Using evidence, outline the differences between **two (2)** major ethical frameworks. What do you consider to be the major limitations of **both** of those ethical frameworks in examining issues current in 2021?

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 2021. Critically evaluate the strengths and the limitations of the moral/ethical theories you have selected in relation to your chosen issue.

OR

Question 9

Critically evaluate the strengths and the weaknesses of the traditional Cosmological Arguments. Does the evidence for the Big Bang Theory mean a debate over the origins of the universe is no longer relevant? If so, why, if not, why not?

OR

Question 10

Critically evaluate the strengths and the weaknesses of the traditional Teleological (Design) Arguments. Does the evidence for natural selection mean a debate over the origins of human life is no longer relevant? If so, why, if not, why not?

Section D

The Good Life

- Answer **one (1)** question in **essay form** in a **separate answer booklet**.
 - It is suggested that you spend approximately **45 minutes** on this section.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 1, 2 and 5**.
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Question 11

“Lend yourself to others, but give yourself to yourself.” **Montaigne**

With reference to the above quote from Montaigne, outline and explain his views on the good life.

Discuss the criticism that Montaigne does not provide a concrete guide as to how to lead a good life and the opinion that his rather selfish observations from a privileged position are of little relevance to life in 2021.

OR

Question 12

“When we abolish the slavery of half of humanity, together with the whole system of hypocrisy that it implies, then the 'division' of humanity will reveal its genuine significance and the human couple will find its true form.”
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 fair is the criticism that de Beauvoir only offers women “the freedom to be men”? Is de Beauvoir still relevant in 2021?

OR

Question 13

“What does not kill me makes me stronger.” **Nietzsche**

What did Nietzsche mean by the above observation? Using the above quote, outline and explain his views on the role of life's difficulties in the formation of character.

Discuss the criticism that Nietzsche's “prescription” for the good life is too focused on the individual at the expense of society and the community and is therefore not that relevant to 2021.

OR

Question 14

“Money is not required to buy one necessity of the soul.” **Thoreau**

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

Discuss the proposition that Thoreau's conception of the good life is too unrealistic, romanticised and irrelevant for today's more complex society.

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End of Exam



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