Tasmanian Certificate of Education

PHILOSOPHY

Senior Secondary

Subject Code: PHL315113

External Assessment

2014

Time: Three Hours

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 information.
Criterion 2  Demonstrates knowledge and understanding of philosophical ideas.
Criterion 3  Explains the logic and reasoning used in philosophical arguments.
Criterion 4  Evaluates the relative strengths and weaknesses of philosophical arguments.

Pages: 8
Questions: 15

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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.

This paper is divided into FIVE sections.

You must answer:

- ALL questions in Section A, in short answer form
- BOTH questions in Section B, in short answer form
- ONE question in Section C in essay form, from this section
- ONE question in Section D in essay form, from this section
- ONE question in Section E in essay form, from this section

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

All written responses must be in English.
Answer ALL questions in this section.

Use a separate answer booklet for this section.

It is recommended that you spend approximately 15 minutes on this section.

This section assesses Criteria 1 and 2.

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**EPISTEMOLOGY**

**Question 1**

Describe the basic features of Scepticism.

**Question 2**

Describe the main differences between inductive and deductive reasoning.

**Question 3**

‘Truth is always relative to the situation or to individual perceptions.’

Comment on the above claim using the views of a relevant philosopher.
Answer BOTH questions in this section.

All questions are of equal value.

Use a separate answer booklet for this section.

It is recommended that you spend approximately 30 minutes on this section.

This section assesses Criteria 1, 2 and 3.

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**MIND/BODY**

**Question 4**

How would a Materialist philosopher justify the following statement?

‘I am nothing more than an advanced animal with a sophisticated brain’.

**Question 5**

How would a Dualist philosopher justify the following statement?

‘I am a human with a body and a separate mind or soul’.
Answer, in essay form, ONE question from this section.

All questions are of equal value.

Use a separate answer booklet for this section.

It is recommended that you spend approximately 45 minutes on this section.

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

LIFE, THE UNIVERSE AND EVERYTHING

Question 6

Which of the following do you find more convincing: the cosmological argument or the design argument?

Justify your response with reference to a range of philosophers.

Question 7

What arguments have been proposed to prove God’s existence? What objections to these arguments have been raised and how valid are these objections?

Question 8

The argument from religious experience depends upon the adequacy of personal revelation as a source of evidence. Is personal revelation a good source of evidence?

Justify your response with reference to a range of philosophers.
Answer, in essay form, ONE question from this section.

All questions are of equal value.

Use a separate answer booklet for this section.

It is recommended that you spend approximately 45 minutes on this section.

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

FREE WILL

Question 9

Analyse and evaluate the statement: ‘There is no such thing as free will.’

Question 10

Analyse and evaluate the arguments that a ‘soft determinist’ would use to claim that humans are responsible for their choices.

Question 11

‘Soft determinism is the only theory that offers humans the genuine possibility of free will.’

Analyse and evaluate the arguments that a philosopher you have studied would use in supporting or rejecting the above claim.
SECTION E

Answer, in essay form, ONE question from this section.

Use a separate answer booklet for this section.

It is recommended that you spend approximately 45 minutes on this section.

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

PHILOSOPHERS AND THE GOOD LIFE

Question 12

‘The pleasant life is not the product of … [the pursuit of pleasures]. On the contrary, it is the result of sober thinking’.

Epicurus, Letter to Menoeceus

To what extent do you agree with this statement? Give reasons to support your answer.

Question 13

‘Hope is the thing with feathers
That perches in the soul
And sings the tune without the words
And never stops at all.’

Emily Dickinson, Hope is the thing with feathers, 254.

From your reading of Schopenhauer, to what extent do you agree or disagree with what the poem above is saying? Give reasons to support your answer.
Question 14

‘The first step to truly living a good and fearless life is accepting responsibility for your actions. Accepting what part you had in any situation. Difficult, to say the least, but liberating.’

Jann Arden, Canadian singer-songwriter

Analyse and evaluate the arguments Nietzsche might use to support Arden’s claim, using at least one of his examples.

Question 15

‘Live your beliefs and you can turn the world around.’

Henry David Thoreau

Analyse and evaluate Thoreau’s claim.