

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 on the TASC website.

The external assessment for this course consists of a written exam.

WRITTEN EXAM STRUCTURE

The written exam is THREE hours.

Students will have an additional 15-minute preparation time during which students can take notes on the note paper provided and highlight any key words in the exam booklet during the allocated time. Students will not be permitted to start their exam until advised by the Exam Supervisor.

The written exam includes FOUR sections.

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

SPECIFIC MATERIALS AND EQUIPMENT APPROVED FOR USE BY STUDENTS

There is no external Information Sheet for this course.

ASSESSMENT

All criteria are assessed using extended ratings A⁺, A, A⁻, B⁺, B, B⁻, C⁺, C, C⁻, t⁺, t, t⁻, z. Please note that C⁻ is a low C, as in it meets that standard for a C.

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 questions 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.

The algorithm to achieve the final rating from Sections A-D will take into account that each section carries equal weight.

SECTION A: MIND/BODY

Structure

- This section will take students approximately 45 minutes to respond to.
- Students will respond to ONE of THREE questions.
- This section will address the content covered in Unit 2 – Mind/Body.

Assessed Criteria

- Criterion 1 communicate philosophical ideas and concepts (Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4).
- Criterion 2 use philosophical ideas and concepts in discussing philosophical arguments (Elements 2, 4 and 5).
- Criterion 3 describe and explain philosophical arguments (Elements 1, 2 and 3).

Nature of Questions

Three questions will be set; one from each of the following topics:

- Key philosophical theories and their responses to the mind/body question; philosophers representing these views
- Thought experiments
- Issues of qualia

Each question **may** use a brief 'statement' as a stimulus.

Nature of Response

- Responses will be assessed using extended alpha ratings.
- Essay response

SECTION B: FREE WILL

Structure

- This section will take students approximately 45 minutes to respond to.
- Students will respond to ONE of THREE questions.
- This section will address the content covered in Unit 3 – Free Will.

Assessed Criteria

- Criterion 1 communicate philosophical ideas and concepts (Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4).
- Criterion 3 describe and explain philosophical arguments (Elements 1, 2 and 3).
- Criterion 4 use evidence to support philosophical arguments (Elements 2, 3 and 5).

Nature of Questions

Three questions will be set; one from each of the following topics:

- What is free will and contested definitions of it, and how have philosophers addressed it?
- Is free will compatible with determinism?
- What are the implications of different views on free will for punishment?

Each question **may** use a brief 'statement' as a stimulus.

Nature of Response

- Responses will be assessed using extended alpha ratings.
- Essay response

SECTION C: ELECTIVE UNITS

Structure

- This section will take students approximately 45 minutes to respond to.
- Students will respond to ONE of FOUR questions.
- This section will address the content covered in Unit 4 elective units:
 - Contemporary Conflict in Moral Theory
 - OR
 - Life, the Universe and Everything

Assessed Criteria

- Criterion 1 communicate philosophical ideas and concepts (Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4).
- Criterion 4 use evidence to support philosophical arguments (Elements 2, 3 and 5).
- Criterion 5 apply philosophical ideas and concepts to contemporary issues (Elements 1, 3 and 4).

Nature of Questions

- TWO questions (Questions 1 and 2) will be set based on Unit 4.1 Contemporary conflicts in moral theory and will require evidence and discussion based on responses to ethical issues in contemporary society according to at least two moral theories.
- TWO questions (Questions 3 and 4) will be set based on Unit 4.2 Life the universe and everything, ONE from each of the following topics:
 - Question 3 should address: 'Theories for the origin of the universe' and their evidence, *and how traditions have been challenged by the Big Bang theory.*
 - Question 4 should address: 'Theories about the evolution of human life' and their evidence, *and how design arguments have been challenged by the theory of evolution.*

Nature of Response

- Responses will be assessed using extended alpha ratings.
- Essay response

SECTION D: THE GOOD LIFE

Structure

- This section will take students approximately 45 minutes to respond to.
- Students will respond to ONE of FOUR questions.
- This section will address the content covered in Unit 5 – The Good Life.

Assessed Criteria

- Criterion 1 communicate philosophical ideas and concepts (Elements 1, 2, 3 and 4).
- Criterion 2 use philosophical ideas and concepts in discussing philosophical arguments (Elements 2, 4 and 5).
- Criterion 5 apply philosophical ideas and concepts to contemporary issues (Elements 1, 3 and 4).

Nature of Questions

Four questions will be set; one for each of the 'key questions' in Unit 5:

- 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 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 ideas.

Each question **may** use a brief 'statement' as a stimulus.

Nature of Response

- Responses will be assessed using extended alpha ratings.
- Essay response