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External Assessment 2022

PHILOSOPHY

PHL315118

Pages	8
Questions	14
Answer Booklets	4

Preparation time for this exam: 15 minutes

Suggested working time: 3 hours

Instructions:

- There are **four (4)** sections to this exam paper.
- You must answer **one (1) question only** from **each section** in **essay form**:
 - **Section A** – answer **one (1)** question
 - **Section B** – answer **one (1)** question
 - **Section C** – answer **one (1)** question
 - **Section D** – answer **one (1)** question.
- Answer each section in a **separate answer booklet** and write the question number you are answering on the front cover of each answer booklet.
- The exam is **three (3)** hours in length. It is suggested that you spend **approximately 45 minutes** on each section.
- 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	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	
Totals		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

“Substance dualists believe that matter is one thing, and the mind is something completely different... this is not the case... it’s all done by nerve cells.” Francis Crick

Referring to the views of specific philosophers in your response, select **either one (1)** Dualist position **or one (1)** Monist position and describe and explain their response to the above observation on the Mind/Body question. Discuss at least **one (1)** major strength and **one (1)** major flaw in your chosen Monist or Dualist position.

OR

Question 2

“Pursuing a thought experiment—even one that leads nowhere—can lead to breakthroughs. Fantasies can be paths to reality.” Ozan Varol

Select **one (1)** thought experiment that relates to the Mind/Body question. Describe the issue which your thought experiment is addressing and discuss the reasoning used in developing and explaining that thought experiment.

Using philosophical ideas and concepts relevant to your chosen experiment, briefly discuss whether the above quote by Ozan Varol is a worthwhile comment about the value of thought experiments.

OR

Question 3

“Why should physical processing give rise to a rich inner life at all? It seems objectively unreasonable that it should, and yet it does.” David Chalmers

Describe and explain the mental phenomenon of qualia. Using the views and opinions of philosophers, outline the strengths and the flaws of the above observation.

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

Using evidence from philosophers you have studied, describe and explain the arguments for hard determinism and the counter-arguments for free will. Evaluate the strengths and the flaws of **either** a hard determinist position **or** a libertarian (free will) interpretation.

OR

Question 5

Using evidence and referring to arguments from philosophers, evaluate the strengths and the flaws of the compatibilist position.

OR

Question 6

"Don't do the crime if you can't do the time."

Using evidence and referring to arguments from philosophers, explain how a libertarian **and** a hard determinist would respond to this cliché about crime and punishment. Discuss the strengths and the flaws of **either** a libertarian **or** a hard determinist approach.

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

Select and briefly outline an important contemporary ethical issue. Using evidence and referring to that issue, outline the ideas and concepts that underlie **one (1)** major ethical framework. What do you consider to be the most important strengths and the most significant limitations of this ethical framework in examining your chosen contemporary ethical issue?

OR

Question 8

Using evidence based on at least **two (2)** ethical/moral theories, discuss how those theories would approach an important ethical issue in 2022. Discuss and evaluate the major strengths and the most significant limitations of the moral/ethical theories you have selected in relation to your chosen issue.

OR

Question 9

“Since time itself began at the moment of the Big Bang, it was an event that could not have been caused or created by anyone or anything.” Stephen Hawking

With reference to the above quote from Stephen Hawking and evidence from other philosophers and scientists you have studied, outline the Cosmological Argument and provide some of the scientific evidence behind the Big Bang Theory.

Critically evaluate the Cosmological Argument. Is it refuted by the Big Bang Theory?

OR

Question 10

“Today the theory of evolution is about as much open to doubt as the theory that the earth goes round the sun.” Richard Dawkins

With reference to the above quote from Richard Dawkins and evidence from other philosophers and scientists you have studied, outline the Teleological Argument and provide some of the scientific evidence behind evolution.

Critically evaluate the Teleological Argument. Is it refuted by evolution?

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

“The most terrible and violent of our own afflictions is to despise our own beings.”

“We can only be wise with wisdom of our own.” **Montaigne**

With reference to the above quotes from Montaigne, outline and explain his views on the roles our bodies and our reasoning play in leading a good life.

Discuss the criticism that Montaigne, as a long-dead white European male, provides only superficial observations, irrelevant to most of society today.

OR

Question 12

“Her wings are cut and then she is blamed for not knowing how to fly.” **de Beauvoir**

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

Discuss the criticism that de Beauvoir’s observations have become less relevant in contemporary debates on biology and gender.

OR

Question 13

“I climb upon the highest mountain, laughing at all tragedies.” **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 cold, cruel and callous for contemporary society.

OR

Question 14

“All good things are wild and free.” **Thoreau**

What do you think Thoreau meant by the above comment? Referring to the above quote, outline and explain Thoreau’s views on the role of the natural world in achieving the good life.

Discuss the view that some disconnection from the natural world is necessary in order to survive in a liveable environment today, and that Thoreau’s “prescription” for the good life is unachievable in 2022.

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End of Exam



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