

External Assessment 2023

PHILOSOPHY

PHL315118

Pages: 12

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 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.
- Write your answers for 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. The suggested working time for each section is **approximately 45 minutes**.
- All answers must be written in **English**.
- You **must** make sure your answers address the listed criteria.

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)	A+ to z rating

Criteria

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.

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Section A – Mind/Body

- Answer **one (1)** question in this section in **essay** form.
 - Write your answer in a **separate answer booklet**.
 - The suggested working time for this section is **approximately 45 minutes**.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 1, 2 and 3**.
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Question 1

Using philosophical ideas and concepts, describe and explain either **one (1)** monist argument **or one (1)** dualist argument concerning the mind/body problem. Describe and explain the strengths of your selected argument and explain how you would respond to **one (1)** major criticism of your selected argument.

OR

Question 2

Select **one (1) or more** thought experiments related to the mind/body problem. Describe and explain what your chosen thought experiment(s) contribute to the mind/body debate. Discuss the view that thought experiments can never be anything other than unscientific speculations.

OR

Question 3

“Qualia are nothing more than brain states which have yet to be explained by science.”

Describe and explain how a property dualist would respond to this opinion. What are some of the difficulties with accepting qualia as support for property dualism?

Section B – Free Will

- Answer **one (1)** question in this section in **essay** form.
 - Write your answer in a **separate answer booklet**.
 - The suggested working time for this section is **approximately 45 minutes**.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 1, 3 and 4**.
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Question 4

“Our lives run like a train on a fixed rail.”

Describe and explain the arguments used by a determinist to claim that we have no free will, and the counterarguments of a libertarian explaining that we freely deviate from that “fixed rail” whenever we make a choice. Which position do you support and what are some of the strengths of your argument?

OR

Question 5

“A free act is a voluntary act; an unfree act is compelled and involuntary.”

Referring to the quote and to evidence from **two (2) or more** philosophers, outline and explain how compatibilists attempt to introduce an element of free will into a deterministic world. Through an examination of the strengths and weaknesses of their position, do you think they provide a convincing case for compatibilism?

OR

Question 6

“Everyone should be responsible for their own actions and be punished if they break the law.”

Outline and explain how **at least two (2)** positions concerning free will and responsibility (a compatibilist position, a hard determinist position, and/or a libertarian position) would respond to this statement.

Which position is most convincing and why?

Section C – Contemporary Conflicts in Moral Theory **OR**

Life, the Universe and Everything

- Answer **one (1)** question in this section in **essay** form.
 - Write your answer in a **separate answer booklet**.
 - The suggested working time for this section is **approximately 45 minutes**.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 1, 4 and 5**.
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Question 7

Using evidence, briefly outline the differences between **two (2)** major ethical frameworks. Select an important ethical issue current in 2023. What do you consider to be the major strengths of **one (1)** of those ethical frameworks in examining your chosen issue?

OR

Question 8

Select an important ethical issue current in 2023. Using evidence from **two (2)** ethical/moral theories, discuss how those theories would respond to your chosen ethical issue. What do you consider to be the strengths of the moral/ethical theories you have selected in relation to your chosen issue?

OR

Question 9

Using evidence, critically evaluate the strengths and the weaknesses of Cosmological Arguments. Explain and evaluate how contemporary supporters of Cosmological Arguments (such as, but not limited to, Plantinga, William Lane Craig and Swinburne) respond to the challenge posed by the Big Bang Theory.

OR

Question 10

Using evidence, critically evaluate the strengths and the weaknesses of Teleological (Design) Arguments.

Explain and evaluate how contemporary supporters of the Teleological Argument (who now often use Anthropic Arguments) respond to the challenge posed by the theory of evolution.

Section D – The Good Life

- Answer **one (1)** question in this section in **essay** form.
 - Write your answer in a **separate answer booklet**.
 - The suggested working time for this section is **approximately 45 minutes**.
 - This section assesses **Criteria 1, 2 and 5**.
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Question 11

“My life has been full of terrible misfortunes most of which never happened.”

Referring to the above quote by Montaigne, explain his views on the role our reasoning plays in contributing to the good life.

Discuss and evaluate how important and relevant Montaigne’s views are to contemporary society.

OR

Question 12

"Biology is not destiny."

Referring to the above quote, according to de Beauvoir, what roles do biology, gender and freedom play in contributing to the good life?

Discuss and evaluate how relevant and important de Beauvoir’s views are to contemporary society.

OR

Question 13

“To live is to suffer; to survive is to find some meaning in the suffering.”

Referring to the above quote, according to Nietzsche, what is the role of life’s difficulties in the formation of character?

Discuss and evaluate how relevant and important Nietzsche’s views are to contemporary society.

OR

Question 14

“I went to the woods because I wished to live deliberately.”

Referring to the above quote, according to Thoreau, what role does the natural world play in achieving the good life?

Discuss and evaluate how relevant and important Thoreau’s views are to contemporary society.

End of Exam

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