

External Assessment 2024

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 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.
- 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.

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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)	

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.

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 the main strengths of **one (1)** monist **OR one (1)** dualist position on the mind/body problem. What do critics see as the main limitations of your chosen position and what evidence would you use to defend your selected position against those critics?

OR

Question 2

Describe **two (2)** thought experiments related to the mind/body problem. Explain how your chosen thought experiments provide justification for the claims made in the philosophical positions which they defend. Briefly discuss the criticism that thought experiments just make theories of the mind easier to understand.

OR

Question 3

Using philosophical ideas and concepts, discuss why many philosophers accept that consciousness can be explained solely in terms of the physical operations of the brain.

Describe and explain the limitations that those who propose that qualia are an exceptional and irreducible phenomenon would see with the above assertion.

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

“Man’s life is a line that nature commands him to describe upon the surface of the earth, without his ever being able to swerve from it, even for an instant.” Baron d’Holbach (18th century French philosopher)

Describe and explain how a libertarian **OR** a compatibilist would challenge this assertion by Baron d’Holbach. What evidence would a hard determinist use to defend their position? Briefly discuss whether you find the hard determinist position convincing.

OR

Question 5

Outline compatibilism and explain how compatibilists justify their rejection of hard determinism. Use evidence to examine both the strengths **and** the limitations of their position. Briefly discuss whether the compatibilist case convinces you. If so, why, if not, why not?

OR

Question 6

Outline and explain how, in different ways, a hard determinist, a compatibilist and a libertarian could all justify restriction on individual freedoms. Use evidence to evaluate both the strengths **and** the limitations of **one (1)** of those positions.

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

Select **one (1)** moral/ethical theory and apply it to an important contemporary issue of your choice. Using evidence to support your philosophical arguments, outline the ideas and concepts that underlie your chosen moral/ethical theory and critically evaluate both the strengths **and** the limitations of the moral/ethical theory selected in relation to your chosen issue.

OR

Question 8

Select **two (2)** moral/ethical theories and apply them to an important contemporary issue of your choice. Using evidence to support your philosophical arguments, outline the ideas and concepts that underlie your chosen moral/ethical theories. Critically evaluate the **strengths of one (1)** of the moral/ethical theories you have selected in relation to your chosen issue.

OR

Question 9

Outline the reasoning and the evidence used to support the traditional cosmological arguments for the existence of God.

Explain and critically evaluate how the scientific evidence that supports the Big Bang Theory and recent scientific developments can challenge the traditional arguments.

OR

Question 10

Outline the reasoning and the evidence used to support the traditional teleological (design) arguments for the existence of God.

Explain and critically evaluate how the scientific evidence behind the theory of evolution and recent scientific developments can challenge the teleological arguments.

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

“The advantage of living is not measured by length, but by use; some men have lived long, and lived little.” Montaigne

Referring to the above quote, and to other evidence from Montaigne, discuss and explain his view on what constitutes a good life.

Discuss and evaluate how relevant Montaigne’s view is to a Year 11/12 student in Tasmania today.

OR

Question 12

“I wish that every human life might be pure transparent freedom.” de Beauvoir

Referring to the above quote, and to other evidence from de Beauvoir, discuss and explain her view on what constitutes a good life.

Discuss and evaluate how relevant de Beauvoir’s view is to a Year 11/12 student in Tasmania today.

OR

Question 13

“The good life is ever changing, challenging, devoid of regret, intense, creative and risky.”

Nietzsche

Referring to the above quote, and to other evidence from Nietzsche, discuss and explain his view on what constitutes a good life.

Discuss and evaluate how relevant Nietzsche’s view is to a Year 11/12 student in Tasmania today.

OR

Question 14

“Our life is frittered away by detail... Simplify, simplify.” Thoreau

Referring to the above quote, and to other evidence from Thoreau, discuss and explain his view on what constitutes a good life.

Discuss and evaluate how relevant Thoreau’s view is to a Year 11/12 student in Tasmania today.

End of Exam

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