Government of **Western Australia**
School Curriculum and Standards Authority

ATAR course examination, 2019

Question/Answer booklet

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS

Please place your student identification label in this box

WA student number: In figures

In words

Time allowed for this paper

Reading time before commencing work: ten minutes
Working time: three hours

Materials required/recommended for this paper

To be provided by the supervisor
This Question/Answer booklet

Number of additional answer booklets used (if applicable):

To be provided by the candidate
Standard items: pens (blue/black preferred), pencils (including coloured), sharpener, correction fluid/tape, eraser, ruler, highlighters

Special items: nil

Important note to candidates

No other items may be taken into the examination room. It is **your** responsibility to ensure that you do not have any unauthorised material. If you have any unauthorised material with you, hand it to the supervisor **before** reading any further.

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Structure of this paper

Section	Number of questions available	Number of questions to be answered	Suggested working time (minutes)	Marks available	Percentage of examination
Section One Critical reasoning	9	9	50	30	30
Section Two Philosophical analysis and evaluation	2	2	80	40	40
Section Three Construction of argument	5	1	50	30	30
				Total	100

Instructions to candidates

1. The rules for the conduct of the Western Australian external examinations are detailed in the *Year 12 Information Handbook 2019*. Sitting this examination implies that you agree to abide by these rules.

2. Write your answers in this Question/Answer booklet.

3. You must be careful to confine your answers to the specific questions asked and to follow any instructions that are specific to a particular question.

4. Supplementary pages for planning/continuing your answers to questions are provided at the end of this Question/Answer booklet. If you use these pages to continue an answer, indicate at the original answer where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number.

See next page

Section One: Critical reasoning **30% (30 Marks)**

This section contains **nine** questions. Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided.

Suggested working time: 50 minutes.

Question 1 **(2 marks)**

Are the following statements analytic or synthetic?

(a) If Sam lied to Eleanor, then Andrew must know what Jen did. (1 mark)

(b) If Sam is younger than Eleanor, and Andrew is younger than Sam, then Eleanor is younger than Andrew. (1 mark)

Question 2 **(3 marks)**

(a) Sixteen-year-olds can get their learner's permit, but they cannot vote.

Underline the sentence that means the same as the above sentence. (1 mark)

(i) If you are sixteen, you can either get your learner's permit or you can vote.

(ii) Sixteen-year-olds cannot vote; they can get their learner's permit.

(iii) If you can vote, then you are sixteen and you can get your learner's permit.

(b) The car won't start unless there is petrol in the tank.

Underline the sentence that means the same as the above sentence. (1 mark)

(i) If there is no petrol in the tank, then the car won't start.

(ii) If the car won't start, then there is no petrol in the tank.

(iii) If there is petrol in the tank, then the car will start.

(c) Express the following sentence as a conditional (If X, then Y) statement. (1 mark)

This drink is either tonic water or it is soda water.

Question 3 **(3 marks)**

We must either fight against terrorism and extremism in foreign countries or we must fight against those forces at home. The last thing we want is to have to fight against terrorism and extremism in our own country, hence we must keep fighting to deal with terrorism and extremism overseas.

For the above argument:

(a) Underline the conclusion. (1 mark)

(b) Evaluate the cogency of the argument. Circle the correct answer. (1 mark)

Cogent Not cogent

(c) Give **one** reason that justifies your evaluation of the cogency. (1 mark)

Question 4 **(3 marks)**

(a) Name the fallacy committed in the following argument. (1 mark)

As the sales of smartphones have increased, so too has the number of people who die from falling down stairs. This shows that people must now be so addicted to their phones that they forget to look where they are going.

(b) Name the fallacy committed in the following argument. (1 mark)

Veganism is the best diet for human health, because human beings achieve optimum health when they eat a diet entirely free from animal products – not just red meat but also eggs, milk and even honey.

(c) Name the fallacy committed in the following argument. (1 mark)

The vote for Brexit in the United Kingdom was 52% for and 48% against. That the majority of people voted for Brexit shows that Brexit will be economically beneficial and the United Kingdom should leave the European Union as soon as possible.

See next page

Question 5 **(1 mark)**

The hospital recognises that the passing away of your mother was a case of therapeutic misadventure and we are looking into the causes of such negative patient-care outcomes, so that in the future we can ensure that those outcomes are managed better.

Underline **one** 'weasel' word or phrase from the above passage and give a concise reason why it is a 'weasel' word or phrase.

Question 6 **(4 marks)**

God is a being who has every perfection, including omniscience, omnipotence and omnibenevolence. Existence is also a perfection because, for any object, it is more perfect if it exists than if it does not exist, so God is a being who has existence.

For the above argument:

(a) Bracket and number the separable statements. (1 mark)

(b) Circle the word that **best** describes the overall inferential strength of the argument. (1 mark)

Weak Moderate Strong

(c) Using the numbers given in part (a) above, draw a diagram of the argument. (2 marks)

See next page

Question 7 **(4 marks)**

If you want to maximise your job opportunities right after you finish university, then you need to major in Commerce. But, if you want to achieve the highest success in your career, you need to be able to think critically. You won't learn to do that by majoring in Commerce, but if you major in Philosophy you will. So, it follows that, if you want to achieve the highest success in your career, you need to forget about maximising your job opportunities right after you finish university.

For the above argument:

(a) Circle any inference indicators. (1 mark)

(b) According to the argument, what major should you **not** do if you want to achieve the highest success in your career? (1 mark)

(c) Number and write **in full** the separable statements in their order of occurrence. (2 marks)

See next page

Question 8 **(2 marks)**

Construct a deductively-valid argument that uses **all** the following statements only **once**. Use a diagram to represent the argument you construct.

(1) Another necessary condition for agency is that your movements are causally efficacious, which means that they make things happen in the world.
(2) To be an agent, your movements must be autonomous, which means that they must be chosen freely.
(3) For your movements to be causally efficacious you must act according to the hypothetical imperative.
(4) To be an agent, you must act according to the hypothetical and categorical imperatives.
(5) For your movements to be autonomous, you must be acting according to the categorical imperative.

See next page

Question 9 **(8 marks)**

Elite sporting competitions that depend on strength and speed should be segregated according to biological sex. There is a significant performance difference between males and females because, on average, males have a performance advantage of at least 10% over females. And, if the performance difference between males and females is significant, then we should segregate elite sporting competitions according to biological sex. Another reason is that not segregating elite sport according to biological sex poses serious risks to the safety of female participants.

For the above argument:

(a) Bracket and number the separable statements. (1 mark)

(b) Circle any inference indicators. (2 marks)

(c) Using the numbers given in part (a) above, draw a diagram of the argument. (3 marks)

See next page

(d) Circle the word that **best** describes the overall inferential strength of the argument. (1 mark)

Weak Moderate Strong

(e) Give **one** reason for your conclusion in part (d). (1 mark)

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End of Section One

See next page

Section Two: Philosophical analysis and evaluation **40% (40 Marks)**

This section has **two** parts: Part A and Part B. Each part contains **one** question. Answer **both** questions.

Write your answers on the lined pages following Question 10 and Question 11.

Supplementary pages for planning/continuing your answers to questions are provided at the end of this Question/Answer booklet. If you use these pages to continue an answer, indicate at the original answer where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number.

Suggested working time: 80 minutes.

Part A **20% (20 Marks)**

Question 10 **(20 marks)**

The following dialogue is an excerpt from a community of inquiry.

You are required to:
- summarise the contributions of each participant (2 marks)
- clarify these contributions (6 marks)
- evaluate them critically. (12 marks)

Chris: I hear Milo Yiannopoulis is coming to speak at the University of Western Australia. It's so refreshing to see someone intelligent argue for unpopular views – it shocks people out of their comfortable political beliefs. Liberal democratic states like ours always benefit from giving their citizens unlimited freedom of expression. This is because allowing everyone the freedom to express their opinions is fundamentally to the advantage of a liberal democracy.

Michael: But we just can't allow speakers from the far right of the political spectrum, like him, on university campuses. If we allow that, then we have no way of preventing radicals and extremists from hosting fascist, racist rallies, and if we can't prevent that then, inevitably, violence and racism will become normalised on campus and no one will ever be safe.

Chris: You don't make society safer by giving the state the power to police people's thoughts. If we allow any ideas to be repressed, no matter how outrageous, we will wind up with a dystopian society, like in George Orwell's novel *1984*, where every speech act, private or public, is censored.

Michael: I totally disagree. The ideal society is one where people are prohibited by law from saying things that other people find offensive. It's entirely consistent with the principles of liberal democracy that people be protected from anyone expressing ideas that might harm or offend them. So, we have to legislate more strongly to prevent people from saying things that might offend marginalised groups.

See next page

See next page

See next page

See next page

See next page

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Part B **20% (20 Marks)**

Question 11 **(20 marks)**

Choose **one** of the following passages and:

- summarise the passage (2 marks)
- clarify its meaning (8 marks)
- evaluate it critically. (10 marks)

Passage One

Voluntary assisted euthanasia should be legal but accessible only to those in chronic pain with fewer than six months left to live. This is, firstly, because in a secular liberal democracy, we should maximise the opportunity for people to exercise autonomy in their life choices. Secondly, if it is legal, then it can be safe. People who choose to end their life should be able to do so in a safe environment with the assistance of a qualified physician. However, voluntary assisted euthanasia should be accessible to only those who are in chronic pain and have fewer than six months left to live. If we don't have clear and strictly enforced restrictions on the availability of euthanasia, then access to assisted euthanasia will be opened up to vulnerable people who it is our duty to help flourish, not to help die.

Passage Two

Creationism and evolutionary theory should be taught alongside one another at school in science classes. First, Darwin's theory of evolution is just as much an unproved theory about the origin of life as creationism. Because scientific theories are never really proven, their acceptance is no less a matter of faith than the acceptance of religious beliefs. Secondly, offering both theories will sharpen the students' critical thinking skills. This is because the best way to sharpen critical thinking is to allow students to make up their own minds on really important matters such as this. Furthermore, to restrict science teachers to teaching the theory of evolution would be to cater only to the secular student, discriminating against all the rest who believe in creationism. And we know that discrimination is always bad.

Passage Three

Without death our life would lack any meaning. The natural life span of humans – at around 80 years – tends to follow a fairly typical narrative arc. We are born, we go through childhood, adolescence, we become independent, get married, have children, grow old and become grandparents and then we die. If we didn't die, none of these experiences would have the unique meaning in our lives that they do. We would just continue trudging on in a monotonous treadmill of endless repetitive experiences, with ever-diminishing pleasure until not another drop of enthusiasm could be squeezed out of our empty existences. A life without death would be like being forced to eat a giant chocolate bar that you could never finish. After a few delicious pieces the pleasure would rapidly start to fade and before long we would feel sick at the very thought of another bite.

End of Section Two
Section Three begins on page 22

See next page

See next page

See next page

See next page

See next page

See next page

Section Three: Construction of argument **30% (30 Marks)**

This section contains **five** questions. Answer **one** question. Write your answer on the lined pages provided following Question 16. Argue for or against the statement with clear definitions, examples and reasons.

Marks will be awarded for demonstration of:
- philosophical understandings (10 marks)
- philosophical argument (15 marks)
- clarity and structure. (5 marks)

Supplementary pages for planning/continuing your answers to questions are provided at the end of this Question/Answer booklet. If you use these pages to continue an answer, indicate at the original answer where the answer is continued, i.e. give the page number.

Suggested working time: 50 minutes.

Question 12 **(30 marks)**

Killing innocent human beings is always wrong.

Question 13 **(30 marks)**

In philosophical inquiry, there is nothing beyond the reach of sceptical doubt.

Question 14 **(30 marks)**

The ideal social contract would make individual freedom more important than the wellbeing of society overall.

Question 15 **(30 marks)**

In ethical decision-making, the ends can never justify the means.

Question 16 **(30 marks)**

If God existed, the world would be a better place.

End of questions

Question number: _____

Question number: _____

Question number: _____

Question number: _____

Question number: _____

Supplementary page

Question number: _____

Supplementary page

Question number: _____

Supplementary page

Question number: _____

Supplementary page

Question number: _____

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