Examination paper

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS—UNIT 2

Student Name:

Student number:

Teacher:

Time allowed for this paper
Reading/planning time before commencing work: ten minutes
Working time for paper: two and a half hours

Material required/recommended for this paper
To be provided by the supervisor
This Question/Answer Booklet

To be provided by the candidate
Standard materials: Pens, pencil, eraser or correction fluid, highlighter and ruler.

Special materials: Nil

Important note to candidates
No other materials may be taken into the examination room. It is **your** responsibility to ensure that you do not have any unauthorised notes or other material of a non-personal nature in the examination room. If you have any unauthorised material with you, hand it to the supervisor **before** reading any further.

Structure of this paper

Section	Suggested working time	Number of items available	Number of items to be attempted	Marks available
Section One: Reasoning and inquiry skills	40 minutes	15	15	30
Section Two: Philosophical analysis	60 minutes	2	2	40
Section Three: Extended argument	50 minutes	5	1	30
			Total	100

Instructions to candidates

1.   Write your answers for section 1 in the spaces provided in this paper. Use a blue or black pen only.

2.   You must confine your responses to the items and to follow all instructions specific to each item.

3.   Spare answer pages may be found at the end of this booklet if you need more space to answer. Please indicate in the original answer space where the answer is continued.

Section One: Reasoning and Inquiry Skills **30 Marks**

Attempt all questions in this section.

Allow approximately 40 minutes for this section.

Question 1 **1 mark**

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If penguins are fictional, then life is not worth living. Penguins are real. Therefore, life is worth living.

Question 2 **2 marks**

Explain why the following is a fallacious argument. In your explanation, name the fallacy.

All octopi are evil. I know this because all the octopi I have met are on Dave's submarine and they are evil.

Question 3 **2 marks**

Explain why the following is a fallacious argument. In your explanation, name the fallacy.

The police officer said that I shouldn't lie to my friends about my test scores and so I've stopped lying to my friends.

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Question 4   **1 mark**
What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If you have jetpacks, you will have a great day. You are having a great day, therefore you have jetpacks.

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Question 5   **2 marks**
Explain why the following is a fallacious argument. In your explanation, name the fallacy.

You don't know that asylum seekers aren't terrorists. Therefore, we should treat them all like criminals as soon as they arrive in Australia.

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Question 6   **1 mark**
What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If you are tired, you will crash your car. You crashed your car, therefore you were tired.

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Question 7   **2 marks**
Explain why the following is a fallacious argument. In your explanation, name the fallacy.

Capitalism is destroying society as we know it. I know this because my philosophy teacher taught me about the critiques of capitalism.

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Question 8 **1 mark**
What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If I like to party, then I like to stay up late. I don't like to party, therefore I don't like to stay up late

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Question 9 **1 mark**
What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If Tom is taller than Nick, then Nick must be shorter than Pete. Tom is not taller than Nick. Therefore Nick isn't shorter than Pete.

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Question 10 **3 marks**
Evaluate the strength of the inference in the following argument. State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

Penguins are really cute. Therefore we should not hurt them.

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Question 11 **3 marks**
Evaluate the strength of the inference in the following argument. State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

All humans will turn orange and then pink. You are a human. Therefore you will turn orange and then pink.

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Question 12   **2 marks**
Explain why the following is a fallacious argument. In your explanation, name the fallacy.

Noisy children are a real headache. An aspirin will make a headache go away. Therefore, an aspirin will make noisy children go away.

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Question 13   **3 marks**
Evaluate the strength of the inference in the following argument. State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

Eating cucumber sandwiches radically improves your mood because they satisfy your hunger and are very refreshing.

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Question 14   **3 marks**
Evaluate the strength of the inference in the following argument. State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

If you are a fan of Penguins of Madagascar then you can definitely be my friend. You are a fan of Penguins of Madagascar. Therefore you can be my friend.

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Question 15 **3 marks**

Evaluate the strength of the inference in the following argument. State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

If you want to get a good night's sleep before the exam, you should keep a consistent sleeping pattern and go to bed on time the night before. Tom has kept a consistent sleeping pattern and went to bed on time. Therefore he should sleep well before the exam.

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End of Section One

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Section Two: Philosophical Analysis   **40 Marks**

This section contains **two** questions. Answer both questions.

Suggested working time for this section is 60 minutes.

Question 16   **(20 marks)**

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

You are required to
- summarise   (2 marks)
- clarify   (6 marks)
- and critically evaluate   (12 marks)

the contributions of each participant

Mollie: Oh, Tristan, I can't believe we're getting married – I am so excited! I am really looking forward to planning our wedding. I want it to be big, beautiful and princess themed! After all, I am like the princess who is marrying her wonderful prince and we are going to live happily ever after!

Tristan: Wow, gee, Mollie, I am excited also but I sure am a little nervous. I don't like that many people looking at me, and I am super worried that if we have a big wedding I'm going to get all tongue-tied and be unable to recite my lines. Maybe we can elope to a beautiful tropical island somewhere and get married just the two of us in an exotic location?

Mollie: Don't be silly, Tristy! I've looked forward to this day *my whole life!* It's just one day, I'm sure you can cope. And then we will have such lovely memories and photos that we can show our children and they will be able to see our whole extended family and all of our friends in the one place, helping us to celebrate our love for each other!

Tristan: Mollie, that sure sounds swell, but I think even if we had just a small wedding, we would still have lovely memories and beautiful photos. I'm not sure we should invite our extended family, after all, big weddings are very expensive! And Great Aunty Joan is going to be a source of embarrassment for everyone.

Mollie: But Great Aunty Joan would be devastated if we don't invite her to our wedding! We can't be selfish, Tristan. We are expected, by our families, to follow tradition and have a big white wedding. Our culture is Christian and so we have to follow that traditional understanding of what a wedding should be.

Tristan: Do we have to follow such a conservative, out-dated tradition? Surely we can make our own rules! This day should be about you and me, baby. It is about our love for each other and how we wish to express that – not what everyone else wants or what is typical for our culture.

Mollie: But it's what *I* want too! I love our culture and our traditions. If we were Indian and Hindu we would have a three day wedding celebration and the whole community would be invited!

Tristan: Maybe we can just discuss this a bit more before getting too carried away.

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Section Two: Philosophical Analysis (continued)

Question 17   **(20 marks)**

Choose **one (1)** of the following three passages and
- summarise   (2 marks)
- clarify   (8 marks)
- and critically evaluate   (10 marks)

the topic in the passage

Passage 1

The concepts of imagination and interpretation are so strongly linked that when we lack an ability for one, we also lack an ability for the other. We use our imagination in order to interpret actions and events. Yet we do not always see things the same way. This difference is obvious when we consider children with autism. Children with autism are unable to understand the actions of others. They cannot always interpret what people mean or why people act the way they do. This inability to appropriately interpret actions and events seems to be linked to the lack of ability to imagine. The child who has autism is often unable to imagine the feelings of another, and therefore they struggle to understand why someone might react the way they do. Furthermore, children with autism may also fail to see how their actions can affect others as this involves considering reality from another's perspective. Using this example, we can clearly see that you cannot interpret the world around you unless you are able to use your imagination.

Passage 2

It is impossible to say that we have access to any objective truth. I might argue that I can use my senses in order to understand the world, but my senses are fallible and limited, too easily tricked or fooled. For example, the earth seems to be flat but actually is not. Even self-knowledge seems to be fallible. I feel as though I know myself, yet even here I could be deluded or deceived. For example, I don't think I have a great body, but my friends tell me that I am beautiful. So, even if things in the world have an objective reality, they exist apart from me and my understanding of them. I have to use my experience and my fallible senses in order to understand the world, when putting together my version of reality. Therefore I cannot know the objective truth about the things in the world.

Passage 3

The fair governance of society is something that will always be an issue for citizens. In a fair society, rights should be equally held amongst all persons. But sometimes these rights are extended to individuals who do not deserve them. Individuals who do not have jobs and who do not pay taxation should be refused access to government subsidies and handouts. To give money to those who do not work encourages them and others to not bother finding employment. This places unfair pressure on persons who do work. Those who work hard should not have to support those who do not. Therefore, rights should not apply to all equally if society is truly to be fair.

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Section Three: Extended Argument   **30 Marks**

This section contains **five** questions. Answer **one** question only. Write your answer in the spaces provided.

Suggested working time for this section is 50 minutes.

Choose **one** of the following five questions. Argue for or against the statement in the question, giving clear definitions, examples and reasons.

(30 marks)

Question 18

A good artwork will have everyone interpret it in the same way.

or

Question 19

It is impossible to know the world without concepts, signs or symbols.

or

Question 20

Everyone who loves Classical Music has good aesthetic taste.

or

Question 21

It is always irrational to feel jealous.

or

Question 22

The less government surveillance, the better.

End of questions

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Acknowledgements