Association for Philosophy in Schools Inc

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: three 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.

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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	50 minutes	15	15	30
Section Two: Philosophical analysis	80 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.

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

Attempt all questions in this section.

Allow approximately 50 minutes for this section.

Question 1 **(1 mark)**

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If William Van Farowe was a good leader then he would have won the election outright but he is a bad leader and therefore, he did not win the election outright.

Question 2 **(2 marks)**

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

A feather is light and what is light cannot be dark, so a feather cannot be dark.

Question 3 **(2 marks)**

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

The temperature in my home town has been getting significantly warmer over the past 20 years and so this means that global warming must be happening.

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Question 4 **(1 mark)**

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If you are in a self-driving car then you will be safe. You are safe right now, therefore, you are in a self-driving car.

Question 5 **(2 marks)**

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

To this day scientists have not been able to find life anywhere else in the universe, so we must be the only living things in all of existence.

Question 6 **(1 mark)**

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If you are wearing the new shark deterrent technology then you won't be involved in a shark-related incident. Given that you have not been involved in a shark-related incident, consequently you must be wearing the new shark deterrent technology.

Question 7 **(2 marks)**

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

Many right-leaning politicians will claim marriage equality is not right but we all know that those ideas come from the Churches they attend, and so we can dismiss their claims.

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Question 8 **(1 mark)**

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If a street is covered in graffiti then you are in a bad area but this street has no graffiti on its walls thus you must be in a good area.

Question 9 **(1 mark)**

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If Brussels is larger than Karratha and Karratha is larger than Exmouth then Brussels must be larger than Exmouth. But Brussels is not larger than Karratha therefore Brussels is not larger than Exmouth.

Question 10 **(3 marks)**

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

The Mona Lisa is not a beautiful piece of art. This is because most people do not find it to be beautiful at all.

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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.

If modern children are playing too many computer games then we ought to force them to spend more time outdoors in nature. But they are not playing too many computer games and so we have no moral duty to force them to spend more time outdoors in nature.

Question 12 **(2 marks)**

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

Henry Rumsfeld argued for a policy of Jobs and Growth in the election led up to help secure Australia's future. However, Rumsfeld has also admitted to smoking marijuana at university in his youth. So his argument for the policy can be dismissed because he is just a pothead.

Question 13 **(3 marks)**

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

Friends are people you can trust. This is because a friend is often someone you have spent a lot of time with and shared many experiences with as well. It is also because friendship is based on the concept of the Golden Rule (i.e. do unto others as you would want done unto you).

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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.

Cassowaries dangerous birds, if you try to feed them. We should always keep our distance with dangerous birds and therefore, we should avoid trying to feed Cassowaries up close.

Question 15 **(3 marks)**

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

Human beings are the only creatures to have a language. Humans are also the most rational creatures. Therefore, language and rationality must be related.

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 80 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

Edward: I don't think we should just allow the continued, creeping intrusion into our privacy that new technology affords. Without the general public realising, the government has more and more access to all of our personal information, and all of it is stored, online, for ever. Just because I agree to abide by the law, does not mean I want to give the law enforcement agents access to every thought I have!

Jackie: It does sound scary, but I don't know, Edward, what's the harm really? I mean, I don't look at anything I'm not supposed to online, so even if someone sees what I'm looking at, does it really matter?

Edward: That's not the point, Jackie! You, and I, and everyone is entitled to our privacy. Privacy is a fundamental human right. And to breach that in the name of some kind of pretend care-taking; protecting the general public – from what? It is just ridiculous.

Jackie: Is it really ridiculous, though? I mean, if the government can catch terrorists by looking at our Internet search history for certain important key words, surely that's a good thing? I'd be happy to give up a little bit of my privacy if it prevented a bomb attack that would kill a million people.

Edward: But terrorists aren't caught that way, Jackie, so we're giving up our privacy for the illusion of security, not any actual protection! Innocent people should not be spied upon just in case it reveals that someone may be a terrorist. After all, our justice system is based on the concept that we are innocent until proven guilty not the other way around.

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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

Symbols and interpretation

Religious symbols function as a means to interpret complex ideologies and beliefs. Their function in society is to provide a sense of similarity for the believers of a particular faith, as well as a means to help understand the origins of their religion. The Christian cross symbolises the harrowing reminder of Jesus' barbaric death at the hands of the Romans. It serves as a way of reminding Christians that Jesus suffered in order to provide those who believed in Him, the gift of eternal life. Christians often wear a crucifix around their neck or as a broach, showing a testament to their faith. Using symbols such as the Christian cross helps believers to display their faith because it reflects a perception and commitment to the belief system they belong to.

Art and meaning

Artwork is an appropriate means of understanding identity because it captures the moment that the society has experienced as a whole. Works of art such as Picasso's Guernica have served as a means of providing a sense of identity for the society within which it was produced. Guernica was created in 1937 as an immediate reaction to the Nazi bombings on Guernica during the Spanish Civil war and now serves as a reminder of those horrific atrocities. Pieces of art such as this provide a sense of identity through the united pain and suffering caused during the war. Societies become reunited through the mutual destruction that is a by-product of war and build foundations for the continuance of their society through the power of art that can be seen worldwide.

Friendship and morality

Friendship is a fundamental way in which people learn to follow moral codes. We care about our friends and want to treat them well. We also want to be liked by our friends and feel included in the friendship group. In order to achieve both of these goals, we follow a moral code. The difficulty is that different friendship groups may each have their own set of moral rules. In order to feel a sense of belonging to the group, individuals within that group will go along with the group's set of rules, even if they may not agree with them. In this way, we learn from our friends and are influenced by their behaviour and judgments. For example, if some members of the group decide to drink on the weekend, you could feel obliged to do the same. If this goes against your personal moral values, on principle, you could be at risk of losing your friends. Conversely, if your friends all volunteer at a charity on a Sunday, you would likely do the same. We learn morals from our friends.

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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

Sometimes emotions are irrational.

or

Question 19

Judgements of beauty are intuitive.

or

Question 20

Everything is interpretation.

or

Question 21

There is no such thing as a private language.

or

Question 22

Friends are a means to an end.

End of questions

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