



APIS

ASSOCIATION FOR PHILOSOPHY IN SCHOOLS (WA)

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.

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	16	16	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.

Section One: Reasoning and Inquiry Skills

(30 Marks)

Attempt all questions in this section.

Allow approximately 50 minutes for this section.

Part A)

4 Marks

Question 1

[1 mark]

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If you are to succeed then you must stop attempting to master the latest trending TikTok dance. As of two minutes ago I have decided I will no longer try to perfect the latest trending TikTok dance and that is why I will succeed.

[Affirming the consequent \(1 mark\)](#)

Question 2

[1 mark]

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

Should you wish to be free from both the complications of Covid-19 and your intelligence then you must ingest bleach. But I think the complications of Covid-19 and my own intelligence are overrated and hence, I do not wish to be free of either. Therefore, I will not be drinking bleach.

[Denying the antecedent \(1 mark\)](#)

Question 3

[2 marks]

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy? Justify your answer.

Being angry at Clive Palmer is essential if you are from Western Australia. It is true that I am angry at Clive Palmer for a variety of reasons and therefore, I am from Western Australia.

[Affirming the consequent \(1 mark\)](#)

[The conclusion is not guaranteed. It is possible that people from states other than Western Australia are angry at Clive Palmer. \(1 mark\)](#)

Part B)

8 Marks

Question 4

[2 marks]

What is the inferential strength of the move to the major conclusion in the following argument? Justify your answer.

Many fully grown llamas are made of lead. Therefore, llamas are very heavy. And because I only trust things as far as I can throw them, I don't trust llamas very much.

Inductively strong. To evaluate the inference you have to ask yourself how far you could throw a heavy-weight fully grown lead llama. Generally heavy objects, like this, cannot be thrown far. And given, that your ability to throw something is tied to how much you trust things, therefore, you don't trust llamas much.

Question 5

[2 marks]

What is the inferential strength of the following argument? Justify your answer.

The Large Hadron Collider (LHC; 27 kilometre long particle collider) built by CERN (a scientific research organisation) is the largest machine ever built and therefore, the LHC is the largest scientific machine ever built.

Deductively valid. The conclusion is guaranteed if we assume the premise is true. In this case, it is because the argument is circular: "largest scientific machine therefore, largest scientific machine."

Question 6

[2 marks]

What is the inferential strength of the inferential move in the following argument? Justify your answer.

Free speech is a fundamental right of liberal democracy. Therefore, I should walk up to my teacher and tell them honestly, that I think they are foolish and selfish.

Inductively weak. Having a right to do something is not a good reason to do that thing.

Question 7

[2 marks]

What is the inferential strength of the major inferential move in the following argument? Justify your answer.

If having a pet monkey is evil then having a banana for a pet is evil. It turns out I do have a pet monkey (their name is mittens), so it follows that having a banana for a pet is evil.

Deductively valid. It is of the form *modus ponens*.

Part C)

8 Marks

Question 8

[2 marks]

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

When I was doing my maths exercises my teacher asked the class to share their responses to question 10. I provided an answer and my teacher told me I am wrong. My mother also told me that it was wrong to eat cereal through my nose and my dad said it was wrong to scream "there's a bomb on this bus" when there really wasn't. Therefore, all three think I did something immoral.

Equivocation. At most, there are three different meanings of the word 'wrong' being used while the conclusion implies only one meaning.

Question 9**[2 marks]**

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

There is a man who makes the best hats in town. His name is Helmet Headpiece. Therefore, he is the best person to ask about how to protect yourself from the sun.

Irrelevant authority. Expertise of hat making (of sun protective equipment: "hats") does not make one an expert on sun protection.

Question 10**[2 marks]**

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

My dad and I have been eating a meat only diet which has resolved long standing mental and physical issues. Therefore, this diet, which we provide a guide for on our website for \$59.99 a month, will help resolve everyone's mental and physical issues.

Hasty generalisation. Assuming a small sample size (the author and their father) is enough to infer a wide-ranging generalisation (meat only diets help resolve mental and physical issues for everyone).

Question 11**[2 marks]**

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

The fact is their relationship started via the online dating application Tinder and therefore, it is not really a serious relationship at all.

Genetic fallacy. Using the origin of something (Tinder) to justify acceptance or rejection of that thing (a relationship) instead of the nature of the thing itself (the relationship).

Part D)**10 Marks****Question 12 [2 marks]**

State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

Students should be motivated to not fail in their studies. For this reason, we will be developing a system where if a student fails at least two units they will have their hands removed. We will be calling this the 'Hand Tax.'

P1 is acceptable. The move from P1 to the conclusion is inductively weak as there are many ways of incentivising higher marks for students and people have the right to keep their hands. Therefore, this argument is not cogent.

Question 13**[2 marks]**

State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

It is true that under this layer of pleasant softness I have rock hard muscles. In fact, I have very well-developed abs. Therefore, I am a bodybuilder.

P1 is acceptable with charity. The move from P1 to the conclusion is inductively weak as just because people have rock hard abs doesn't mean they are a bodybuilder (they could be elite athletes from many other fields). Therefore, this argument is not cogent.

Question 14

[2 marks]

State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

If I feel cute, take a photo and upload it to social media then I might delete it later. I just captured a very endearing and lovable photo of myself which I quickly uploaded to Instagram. It must be the case that I might delete it later.

P1 is acceptable. P2 is acceptable with charity. The move from P1 and P2 to the conclusion is deductively valid. Therefore, this argument is cogent.

Question 15

[2 marks]

State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

Three groups of people use the phrase "tell me why" too much: Children, philosophers and The Backstreet Boys. While free speech is important, we should stop people from overusing phrases so that they don't become irritating. Consequently, we should stop children, philosophers and The Backstreet Boys from overusing the phrase "tell me why."

P1 is contentious. P2 is not acceptable. The move from P1 and P2 to the conclusion is deductively valid. Therefore, the argument is not cogent.

Question 16

[2 marks]

State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

Many objects are desired by humans. Capitalism promotes this tendency to desire a particular kind of object: the commodity. But commodities (e.g. shoes, mobile phones and cars) do not make our lives meaningful. Therefore, capitalism promotes a desire for something meaningless.

P1 and P2 are acceptable. P3 is contentious. The move to the conclusion is deductively valid. The argument is therefore, not cogent.

End of Section One

Section Two: Philosophical Analysis

(40 Marks)

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

Suggested working time for this section is 80 minutes.

Question 17 – Community of Inquiry

20 marks

In the following dialogue, you are required to:

- summarise (2 marks)
 - clarify (6 marks)
 - and critically evaluate (12 marks)
- the contributions of each participant

Kayleigh – I've just been blocked by BookFace! Can you believe it? All I did was call out some questionable opinions and told them what I really thought of their views. Whatever happened to free speech? These people need to stop being so sensitive and allow an open platform for people to express themselves. That's how societies develop.

Mo – To be honest – I'm not surprised that they've blocked you. I've heard you say some unreasonable things about opinions that you do not share. You just cannot do that in a way that causes harm to others, or as I saw once on the news, it becomes 'hate speech'. That doesn't develop a society – it simply provides a mouthpiece for those who shout the loudest.

Kayleigh – Hate speech? Don't tell me that you've taken that idea too! The government is trying to suppress our rights – they are incompetent so you really cannot listen to what they have to say. The point of free speech is just that. It is speech that is free. It is a basic human right – just like the right to life or the right to food and shelter. You can say what you think without any fear of repercussions. Anyone who tells you otherwise is guilty of censorship.

Mo – I find your view very selfish. You should consider the right of others too. There has to be a line drawn – free speech has to have some limits. For example you wouldn't want someone being able to share State secrets online would you? Or have someone widely circulate 'how to' guides on bomb-making or contract killing. You have to be appropriate in the manner in which you speak and be mindful of the consequences.

Kayleigh – What about the consequences on me if I don't get to express my ideas? It is an infringement of my civil liberties to deny my right to Free speech. And Free speech is necessary for a sophisticated society. To restrict it in any way is an indictment on any government and it is the start of a terrible process. Today it will restrict so-called 'hate speech' – tomorrow it will be a completely totalitarian state.

- freedom of expression and its limits

Kayleigh – I've just been blocked by BookFace! Can you believe it? All I did was call out some questionable opinions and told them what I really thought of their views. Whatever happened to free speech? These people need to stop being so sensitive and allow an open platform for people to express themselves. That's how societies develop.

Sets the scene with a statement of opinion that people who get offended by people sharing honest opinions are being too sensitive. Claims that free speech is necessary to enable the development of a Society. Alludes to the Liberal aim of a 'collision of ideas'

Mo – To be honest – I'm not surprised that they've blocked you. I've heard you say some unreasonable things about opinions that you do not share. You just cannot do that in a way that causes harm to others, or as I saw once on the news, it becomes 'hate speech'. That doesn't develop a society – it simply provides a mouthpiece for those who shout the loudest.

Responds by referring to Mill's Harm Principle – the only justification for restricting freedom is when such a choice or action harms another person. Refers to 'hate speech' as an example of how free speech can be used to target individuals or minority groups in targeted attacks. Uses a weasel word 'as I saw once on the news'. Commits the 'hasty generalisation' fallacy – permitting free speech has led to hate speech on some occasions but this doesn't mean it always will.

Kayleigh – Hate speech? Don't tell me that you've taken that idea too! The government is trying to suppress our rights – they are incompetent so you really cannot listen to what they have to say. The point of free speech is just that. It is Speech that is Free. It is a basic human right – just like the right to life or the right to food and shelter. You can say what you think without any fear of repercussions. Anyone who tells you otherwise is guilty of censorship.

Commits the ad hominem fallacy by attacking the government. Invokes the 'Human Rights' argument for free speech. Accuses any restrictions on free speech of being censorship. Changes the focus of her attack – now turns attention to the government. Social media like BookFace are private companies who are not policed by the government, which weakens her argument.

Mo – I find your view very selfish. You should consider the right of others too. There has to be a line drawn – free speech has to have some limits. For example you wouldn't want someone being able to share State secrets on line would you? Or have someone widely circulate 'how to' guides on bomb-making or contract killing. You have to be appropriate in the manner in which you speak and be mindful of the consequences.

Makes the counter point that Free Speech has to have limits in order to protect society. Makes the analogy between restricting harmful words as being the same as making restrictions on the sharing of state secrets or bomb-making in that they all cause harm to society.

Kayleigh – What about the consequences on me if I don't get to express my ideas? It is an infringement of my civil liberties to deny my right to Free speech. And Free speech is necessary for a sophisticated society. To restrict it in any way is an indictment on any government and it is the start of a terrible process. Today it will restrict so-called 'hate speech' – tomorrow it will be a completely totalitarian state.

Uses the argument that the individuals rights are more important than those of the minority group.
Uses the Slippery slope fallacy to enforce the dangers of restricting free speech.

Section Two: Philosophical Analysis (continued)

Question 17 – Passage Analysis

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 One:

The very nature of aesthetic appreciation is dependent on a viewer perceiving an artist's work as "beautiful". For example, when describing a beautiful object a viewer often cannot point to the specific feature of an artwork that makes it beautiful. Take the Mona Lisa, some people find her eyebrows beautiful and others think it is her smile that portrays beauty. However, this perception of beauty occurs only in the mind of the viewer and does not equate to any real world objective observation of beauty. Thus, beauty is not actually observable. If something is observable then we can know it exists. But, as proven above, beauty is never observable. It follows then that beauty does not exist in reality.

Dot point: perception and aesthetic appreciation

1. The very nature of aesthetic appreciation is dependent on a viewer perceiving an artist's work as "beautiful".
2. This perception of beauty occurs only in the mind and does not equate to any real world objective observation of beauty.
3. Beauty is never observable.
4. If something is observable then we can know it exists.
5. Beauty does not exist in reality.

1+2

↓

3+4

↓

5

Passage Two:

One characteristic of personhood is the ability to use reason but to be human is to combine that reason with emotion. Artistic pursuits also aim to combine reason and emotion. This is why art is an endeavour that is exclusive to the human race. Koko the gorilla, for example, was not creating art but simply using reason to be rewarded with treats for following simple instructions. As a primary condition of humanity, art is necessary for the pursuit of a meaningful human life. Therefore, to ensure that future generations achieve a meaningful existence, university fees for the arts need to be reduced so that all students can be trained in the most meaningful academic subjects.

Dot point: Personhood and its relationship with emotion and reason

1. One characteristic of personhood is the ability to use reason
2. To be human is to combine that reason with emotion
3. Artistic pursuits also aim to combine reason and emotion
4. Art is an endeavour that is exclusive to the human race
5. Art is necessary for the pursuit of a meaningful human life
6. University fees for the arts need to be reduced so that all students can be trained in the most meaningful academic subjects.

1+2+3

↓

4

↓

5

↓

6

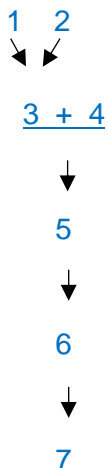
Passage Three:

When it comes to understanding a text, is there a meaning to be made or a meaning to be discovered? This is a central question in interpretation. If meaning in a text is to be created, then it's imposed by the culturally conditioned reader. There are several reasons why meaning is created when we come to interpret a text. Firstly, meaning is not found in the text itself but in the interaction between the reader and the text. Secondly, the author does not determine the meaning of their text, since the author's perspective is not their own voice but the voice of all the teachers and texts that have influenced them. Therefore, the meaning of a text is decided by the individual or community, which means we can all interpret texts any way we wish.

Dot points

- Types of inquiry: hermeneutics
- The concept of interpretation

1. Meaning is found in the interaction between the reader and the text
and
2. The author does not determine the meaning of the text
so
3. The meaning of a text is created
and
4. If meaning in a text is created, then it must be imposed by the culturally conditioned reader(s).
so
5. Author's perspective is a reflection of their own influences.
so
6. Meaning is imposed by the reader/community of readers
so
7. We can all interpret texts however we want.



Section Three: Extended Argument

(30 Marks)

This section contains **five (5)** questions. Answer **one (1)** question only. Write your answer in the spaces provided.

Suggested working time for this section is 50 minutes.

Choose **one (1)** of the following five questions. Argue for or against the statement in the question, giving clear definitions, examples and reasons.

Question 19

You can only be friends with another person you regard as your equal.

- *the concept of friendship*
- *the I-thou relationship as a fundamental element of ethics*

Question 20

Government surveillance is necessary to keep society safe.

- *the concept of rights*
- *privacy and its limits*
- *government interference and surveillance*

Question 21

There is no real difference between a good interpretation and a bad one.

- *the concept of interpretation*
- *criteria for good interpretations, including coherence, consistency, comprehensiveness and consilience*

Question 22

Truth is in the eye of the beholder.

- *the question of objectivity and subjectivity*
- *the ideas of truth, representation and reality and their interrelationship*

Question 23

One person's freedom should never override another person's freedom.

- *the concept of rights*
- *freedom of expression and its limits*