## 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.

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**Part A)** **4 marks**

**Question 1** **[1 mark]**

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If the sun sets then it actually goes to bed, as in, it tucks itself into a warm bed to sleep. But we all know the sun never sets so obviously it doesn't go to bed either.

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**Question 2** **[1 mark]**

What is the technical name for the following formal fallacy?

If you hear the bongo drums deep in the night then Lil' Pebbles is still out there, partying eternally. It is known that the party never ends for our friend Lil' P and so, without any doubt, you will hear the rhythmic thud of the bongo drum as the night sinks to its darkest hour.

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**Question 3** **[2 marks]**

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

Without radical change, the world's environment is doomed. However, the environment is not doomed and so, there was radical change.

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**Part B)** **8 marks**

**Question 4** **[2 marks]**

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

Black holes are incredibly dense parts of space with intense gravitation fields and donut holes are intensely unsatisfying because they lack 'donuty goodness.' Therefore, all holes are intense.

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**Question 5** **[2 marks]**

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

If the majority of the Lego bricks in the bag are yellow then there is a chance you will draw out a yellow Lego brick at random. But most of the Lego bricks in the bag are not yellow and so, there is no chance you will draw out a yellow Lego brick at random.

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**Question 6** **[2 marks]**

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

I know I will soon, once more, taste the delicious favour of an iced mocha frappuccino. This is because, once a year, on the winter solstice, I march down to my favourite café to order an iced mocha frappuccino to celebrate the death and rebirth of the Sun. Also, we are entering the depths of winter as the solstice is occurring within the week.

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**Question 7** **[2 marks]**

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

Without art we would be mere animals. But we do have art and therefore, we are not animals.

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**Part C)** **8 Marks**

**Question 8** **[2 marks]**

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

Most computer games are violent. This is because the computer game series Grand Theft Auto is violent and they are very popular computer games.

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**Question 9** **[2 marks]**

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

It is certainly the case that Nietzsche and Marx had fantastic facial hair. In fact, many philosophers over the years have had some sort of facial hair. But Nietzsche only had an amazing moustache not beard like most philosophers and so, we should pay no attention to what he says.

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**Question 10** **[2 marks]**

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

I spoke to a cognitive scientist about dental health and they advised me that learning a language is great for increasing my cognitive abilities which in turn would aid my dental health. If someone is going to know stuff about teeth, a cognitive scientist will and so I'm going to learn French.

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**Question 11** **[2 marks]**

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

Area 51 is the location where supposedly the USA holds and researches aliens and alien technology. We cannot know that there definitely are not any aliens being held in Area 51 and so I propose that we raid Area 51 to find the aliens.

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**Part D)** **10 marks**

**Question 12** **[2 marks]**

State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

Some politicians value winning an election to maintain power above justice. No politician who values winning an election to maintain power above justice is a truly good leader. Therefore, no politicians are truly good leaders.

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**Question 13** **[2 marks]**

State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

If all cats are mammals then they must have fur like other mammals. Some cats are furless hence, some cats are not mammals.

**Question 14** **[2 marks]**

State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

Some Australians are revolutionary socialists, since some Australians support revolution and some Australians are socialists.

**Question 15** **[2 marks]**

State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

Fixing any situation is easily done by adding more animal shaped balloons to the situation. There have been long-standing and significant tensions between Australia and New Zealand. Because of this we should parachute in as many animal shaped balloons into the Australian / New Zealand areas as we can.

**Question 16** **[2 marks]**

State the cogency of the argument. Justify your answer.

Terrorism is the violent intervention of state A into state B to achieve A's objectives. The USA has violently intervened into the Middle East to achieve the USA's objectives. Therefore, the USA is engaged in terrorism.

**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.

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**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

**Julian** – Our school has just introduced a new I.T policy. It means that all of our activity 'on-line' is now being monitored by a moderator. If we are seen to be looking at anything that is deemed 'inappropriate' we will face consequences, such as having our access to the internet revoked and letters being sent home to parents! This is spying on us! It's an outrage!

**Chelsea** – Quite right too. I think it is very sensible. All of my classmates waste their lesson time playing games, or shopping for dresses for the Ball. It takes away so much of the teacher's attention in policing their behaviour that they can't teach us properly. This new policy will stop people messing around and lead to better performance.

**Julian** – I can't take that argument seriously. I'm not going to listen to any line of reasoning from such a try-hard. Any-one with half a brain can see that this is an assault on our basic human right to privacy. What we do on our computers – and they are *our* computers by the way, not the school's – should be our business. If I want to spend my time looking at shoes and dresses then I should be allowed to do so without any interference from the School.

**Chelsea** – I don't know why you are so angry about this. If you have nothing to hide, then you should not be worried. No School I.T. moderator is going to be interested in your use of *Sparknotes* or *Wikipedia*. Anyway, a study I saw on the ABC showed that Schools who monitor their Students' 'on-line' behaviour also show other benefits such as a drop in bullying and other anti-social behaviour as well as improved achievement in the classroom. So that makes it worthwhile.

**Julian** – But that's not the point! It sets a very dangerous precedent – who knows what the school will do with our private information! No benefit in the world is worth sacrificing a person's right to privacy. That is an absolute right that should not be violated under any circumstances. I will be writing to the Principal about this – it all demonstrates that surveillance is damaging to society.

**Section Two: Philosophical Analysis (continued)**

**Question 18 – 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:

We understand the world subjectively. That is, everything we experience is within our own mind. Our subjective understanding is a process of meaning making. We see a hat. We don't experience the hat for what it is directly, we can't know the hat objectively, we only experience the hat as what it represents to us. This representation is known as the process of signification. Each sign, like the hat, has two parts; signifier (the hat) and the signified (what the hat means). This making of meaning, the decoding, is informed by the symbolic code. In order to communicate meaning with others we must share a symbolic code. The symbolic code informs us about what things mean. Our understanding of the world is informed by the symbolic codes we share. Therefore, the further apart different shared symbolic codes are, the more our understanding of the world differ.

Passage Two:

People who brag about the number of friends or followers they have on social media have made a fundamental error when it comes to friendship. Friends on social media should not be considered real friends. One of the main reasons you have friends online is so they can like your posts and comment on how great you look. This sort of 'friendship' is based on pleasure. You're essentially using them as a means to an end. This is not friendship at all, it's just selfishness. Some people might say friendship is based on the 'you scratch my back, then I'll scratch yours' principle. This is how the social media world operates, commenting and liking your 'friends' post in the desperate hope they'll return the like. If they don't return the 'like', they're no longer useful as a friend. Once again, this is just self-interest. Friendship is based on caring for one another, sharing with one another and 'doing life together,' not on self-interest which is why friendship can only exist in real life.

Passage Three:

When doing philosophy, it has been argued that culture should be set aside. However, it is the case that the concept of culture can never be removed from the philosophical approach. In Nigeria, for instance, the cultures of the various ethnic groups, including their proverbs, wise-sayings, traditional stories or folklores and language; contain the philosophies of these ethnic groups. This shows that there are elements of culture in every philosophy. When studying specific phenomena, one's beliefs around shared values and social roles can never be entirely removed from one's predispositions in relation to the concept being studied. No form of philosophy is immune to this cultural influence. This is because culture forms the background for every philosophy and, as such, gives meaning to philosophy.

**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.

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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**

Humans can never be given completely equal rights.

**Question 20**

More than one interpretation of the same thing can be reasonable.

**Question 21**

Art must be beautiful.

**Question 22**

The incidence of war would be greatly reduced if the principle of the I-thou was universally embraced.

**Question 23**

Robots are capable of emotions.