



Examination paper

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS—3A

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: Mind, 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	11	11	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

What are the three parts of any argument?

[1 mark]

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Question 2

Explain what is meant by the term “weasel word”.

[1 mark]

Question 3

Name the fallacy committed in the following argument and explain why it is a fallacy.

[2 marks]

Arguments are either deductively valid or they are completely lacking any cogency. The argument in your essay is not deductively valid. Therefore it is completely lacking any cogency.

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Question 4

Name the fallacy committed in the following argument and explain why it is a fallacy . [2 marks]

If people don't vote for the Super Logical Party in tomorrow's election, then the economy is doomed and the country will go to rack and ruin. This election is critical to all our future prospects. Thus, I urge you to vote for the SLP and save us from a terrible outcome.

Question 5

Name the fallacy committed in the following argument and explain why it is a fallacy. [2 marks]

Consciousness is not part of the physical world, since consciousness is non-physical.

Question 6

In the following argument:

- (a) number and underline each statement in order of appearance,
- (b) diagram the argument correctly in terms of its premises and conclusion. [4 marks]

Modern adults need to get more exercise. One reason for this is that they would be healthier. This is because exercise improves the body's capacity to resist disease and decline. Another reason why people should get more exercise is that they would be happier as a result of it. This is because exercise improves our mental well-being.

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Question 6 continued



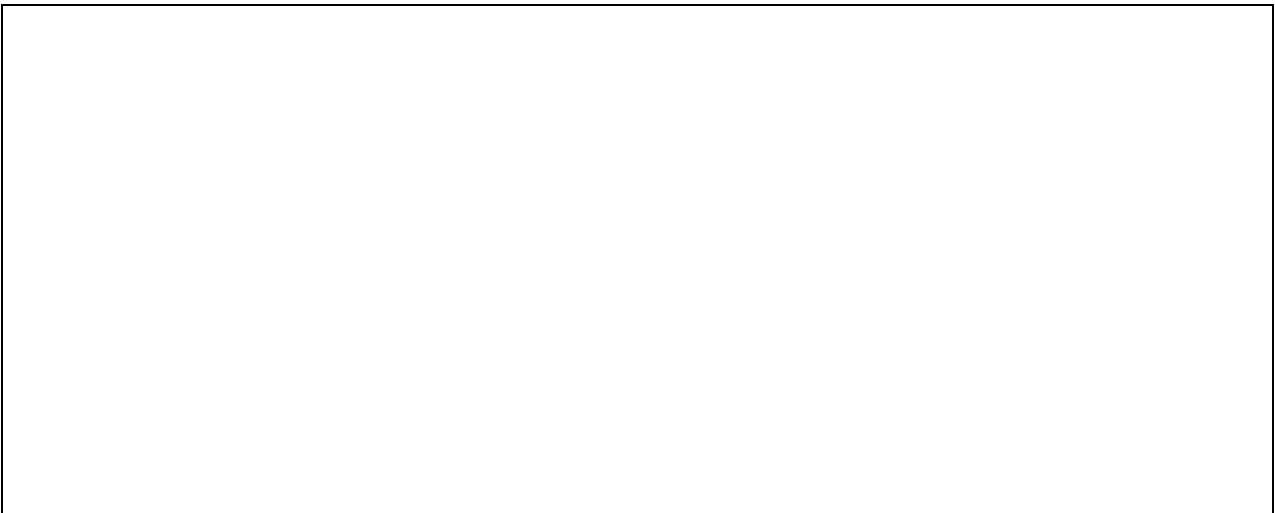
Question 7

In the following argument:

- (a) number and underline each statement in order of appearance,
- (b) diagram the argument correctly in terms of its premises and conclusion,
- (c) evaluate the strength of the inference or inferences.

[5 marks]

It will rain heavily tomorrow, since that is what the Bureau of Meteorology is forecasting. Therefore there is no need to water the garden today.



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Question 8

In the following argument:

- (a) number and underline each statement in order of appearance,
- (b) diagram the argument correctly in terms of its premises and conclusion.
- (c) evaluate the strength of the inference or inferences.

[4 marks]

Canberra is further south than Albany, since Adelaide is further south than Albany, and Canberra is further south than Adelaide.

Question 9

In the following argument:

- (a) number and underline each statement in order of appearance,
- (b) diagram the argument correctly in terms of its premises and conclusion.

[4 marks]

Either the universe was created by God or it came into existence without a cause or it has existed forever. But the universe contains much evil, so it can't have been created by God. Also nothing can come into existence without a cause. Therefore, the universe has existed forever.

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Question 10

Map the strongest possible argument that uses all (and only) the following statements. Use a diagram to represent the argument you construct. *[2 marks]*

- (1) Increasing taxes will lose the next election.
- (2) Government debt will not be reduced.
- (3) Reducing government spending will lose the next election.
- (4) The government will not take actions that lead to losing the next election.
- (5) The only ways to reduce government debt are to reduce spending or increase taxes.

Question 11

Map the strongest possible argument that uses all (and only) the following statements. Use a diagram to represent the argument you construct. *[3 marks]*

- (1) Non-human animals don't have language.
- (2) All thinking requires language.
- (3) Non-human animals can't think rationally.
- (4) Rational thinking requires language.

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 12

(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

Desiree: I want a mouse for a pet! It will cheer me up and make me happy to look after and worry about and care for a lovely little animal. I'll name the mouse "Stevie", yeah, that's a great name! Stevie will be my new best friend.

Ivan: Are you sure that's a good idea? I mean, what about the poor mouse, stuck in a cage in your house? Will that make the mouse happy?

Desiree: You mean "Stevie". Yes, of course it'll make Stevie happy. Stevie will love the cage because it will be a lovely home for a mouse like him! Much better than being out there in the big old bad world where the cat can get him! I can't bear the thought of poor Stevie being harmed by that mean old cat next door.

Ivan: But you aren't responsible for protecting a mouse from harm. After all, what about all the mice you can't save and keep in cages? And what about mice that are used for animal experimentation in order to help humans? Many mice are harmed for either natural reasons or in order to benefit humans.

Desiree: Don't say such things! That's awful! No-one should harm any other living creatures, it's just not nice and there isn't any good reason for it. At least I can save one of them. And besides, Stevie isn't just any mouse, he'll be my pet.

Ivan: But where do you draw the line? Why Stevie and not the others? And what about other animals? I think you're being illogical, after all, you aren't even a vegetarian!

Section Two: Philosophical Analysis (continued)

Question 13

(20 marks)

Choose **one (1)** of the following three passages and

- summarise (2 marks)
- clarify (8 marks)
- and critically evaluate the topic in the passage (10 marks)

Life After Death

Surely there must be some sort of existence after death. Life after death is a concept that has received attention for centuries. Many people have found this idea not only interesting but also meaningful. For example, the religious argument for behaving morally relies on God's existence and the promise of life after death. If there is no life after death, then there is no reason to behave morally! Many people are religious, and if there is no existence after death, then they are all deluded! Surely that many people cannot be deluded and therefore there must be some kind of life after death.

Poverty and Moral Obligation

As an individual we do not have a moral obligation to help anyone that is suffering from poverty in foreign countries. Investing money into developing countries does not help them and instead only creates further need and dependency. Only local people know what will be best for local people, and at no time has a group of foreigners succeeded in stabilizing a country other than their own. It is simply more efficient for us to take care of our own people, as we do have a moral obligation to look after the welfare of those in our own communities. If wealthy businesses and individuals invest their money back into their own society in order to create jobs, then this will result in a secure society for us to live in, which is more beneficial than donating to foreign aid.

On Liberty

Those who believe in a liberal democracy believe that individuals should be free to say and believe in whatever they want, provided they do not cause harm to others. Liberals tell others that freedom of choice is of the utmost importance. As they believe freedom of choice is moral, they claim that society should be set up in such a way as to allow for maximum liberty. However, in making this claim, liberals fail to accept any other ways a society may run. For example, societies that do not value freedom as one of the highest values are seen as morally inferior. Governments that dictate and legislate on matters of religion, rights, speech and personal expression are deemed immoral. What this means then is that liberals do not tolerate these other forms of social governance or, if they do, then they tolerate something that they believe to be morally incorrect. Surely this means that liberals aren't really all that tolerant.

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 14

Science is as subjective as any other form of inquiry

or

Question 15

Utopia is impossible.

or

Question 16

Tolerance is not a virtue.

or

Question 17

Conformity is necessary to make social life possible.

or

Question 18

There are some values that are shared by all, regardless of their culture.

End of questions