Association for Philosophy in Schools Inc

Examination paper

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS—UNIT 3

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	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 40 minutes for this section.

Section One: Critical reasoning **30% (30 Marks)**

Question 1 **(1 mark)**
What is the name for the move from premise to conclusion in an argument?

Question 2 **(1 mark)**
Explain what is meant by the term “weasel word”.

Question 3 **(2 marks)**
Name the fallacy committed in the following argument and explain why it is a fallacy.

> Most people believe in a supernatural power, so there must be a supernatural power.

Question 4 **(2 marks)**
Name the fallacy committed in the following argument and explain why it is a fallacy.

> You can usually get to Adelaide by plane or by train, but since at present neither planes or trains are operating, you can’t get to Adelaide.

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Question 5 **(2 marks)**

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

Perth is the best city in the world, because no other city has its all-round excellence.

Question 6 **(4 marks)**

(a) Number the following argument (1 mark)

(b) Diagram the argument (3 marks)

Pasta, bread and potatoes make a very bad diet. One reason for this is that they contain little nutritional value. This is because they are mostly just carbohydrates. Another reason why they make a bad diet is that they cause us to gain weight. This is because they stimulate excessive insulin production.

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Question 7 **(5 marks)**

(a) Number and bracket the statements and underline the final conclusion (1 mark)
(b) Diagram the argument (2 marks)
(c) Evaluate inferential strength for each inference (2 marks)

The price of watermelons will fall, since watermelon growers are bringing large crops to market. Therefore watermelon sales will increase.

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Question 8 **(4 marks)**

(a) Number and bracket the statements and underline the final conclusion (1 mark)
(b) Diagram the argument (2 marks)
(c) Evaluate inferential strength for each inference (1 mark)

Echidnas are monotremes, since they lay eggs, and they are mammals, and all egg-laying mammals are monotremes.

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Question 9 **(3 marks)**

Diagram the following statements so that they form the strongest possible argument.

(1) Everything in the universe is made of either earth, air, fire or water.

(2) Air and water are liquid.

(3) Fire is gaseous,

(4) Kryptonite is neither liquid nor gaseous

(5) kryptonite is made of earth.

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Question 10 **(3 marks)**

(a) Number the statements and underline the conclusion in the argument (1 mark)

(b) Diagram the argument (2 marks)

Aliens do not exist. Many people claim to have seen them but people are often deluded, so these claims are not proof. Photography would be proof but none have ever been photographed. No scientific instruments have ever detected their existence.

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Question 11 **(3 marks)**

(a) Number the statements and underline the conclusion in the argument (1 mark)

(b) Diagram the argument (2 marks)

The Freudian theory of dreams has been tested and proven correct. Therefore, we must accept that dreams express our innermost thoughts. Alice was dreaming of being unjustly put on trial. This shows that Alice has a deep fear of being judged harshly by others.

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 12 **(20 marks)**

In the following dialogue, you are required to:

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

the contributions of each participant

Colin: In the interest of the general public and for the greater good of everyone, including me, I propose that we build a wonderful highway that will ensure commuters get from A to B quicker and safer.

Angie: A highway may be appealing to some, but I disagree that it will be for the greater good. It will not be good for the people who live in the way of where the proposed road will be built. It will not be good for cyclists who do not drive. It will certainly not be good for the animals and trees that will be bulldozed to make room for the noisy construction and subsequent traffic.

Colin: Angie, I think you're missing the bigger picture. The highway is a symbol of innovation and infrastructure. It is a useful thing, and it will ensure that every time someone thinks of how to get from A to B quickly and safely, they thank those who had the foresight to build this highway.

Angie: How many people will use the highway? Even if it is a lot of people, there are roads already that go from A to B, quickly and safely enough. Why go to all the cost and trouble of building a highway that will damage the environment and displace people simply so that some commuters can save ten minutes on their journey to and from work?

Colin: Angie, those commuters will thank those who had the foresight to build this highway for the extra twenty minutes they get to spend with their families at home, or hard at work, or socialising with friends. The new highway will save them time and money. The new highway will ensure they are not stuck in traffic, wasting petrol and precious time.

Angie: Those commuters should be catching public transport instead! Then they'd be able to relax on their way to and from work, as well as save on petrol. Instead of building a new highway, why not use that money to improve public transport?

Colin: Because these commuters do not like to catch buses and trains, Angie, they like efficient highways that get them safely from A to B.

Angie: They may like clean, efficient, safe buses and trains that go from A to B! Plus, given all we now know about how carbon emissions damage the environment, ultimately causing climate change to hasten, the right thing to do is to protect the parks and wildlife, not bulldoze them in order to build a big, ugly, noisy, dirty highway.

Colin: Ah, well, Angie, I don't think you were ever going to vote for me anyway.

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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 (10 marks)

the topic in the passage

On obligations to the human world

These days it is very fashionable to speak about cities. There is a new minister for Cities and the Built Environment in the Australian government and many economic policies are advising that looking after our cities is the key to our future well-being. More people than ever before live in urban areas and therefore cities provide us with necessary resources and a sense of community. Cities may be thought of as cold and concrete, but good city planning can cater for creative artworks, green spaces and innovative architecture. How a city is designed and built dictates how we move through it, and how we feel about where we live. For these reasons, if city dwelling is stressful, then better planning measures is a moral necessity.

On utopia

Human beings are concerned with improving social conditions to make right action possible because human beings concern themselves with the quality of social relationships. This is the essence of debates and decisions about public policy and social goods. That is why talk of moral convention must engage with discussion of the social contract. And furthermore it is also the case that a discussion of the social contract is in principle a discussion of utopia. Therefore, talk of moral convention must be based on a discussion of the concept of a utopia.

On persons and marginalisation

We recognise internally the fundamental truth of the Golden Rule. But we are also pleasure-seeking animals in the sense that we pursue individual preference. For these reasons, individual preference and conformity to the moral norm sometimes clash or conflict such as, for example, the issue of gay marriage or off-shore detention of asylum seekers. However, we recognise too the need for rational informed debate rather than making rash judgements that harm people. Therefore, we understand that to marginalise persons for individual preferences that commit no harm is morally wrong.

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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 14

It is possible to be too tolerant.

or

Question 15

The less government, the better.

or

Question 16

The world is how it seems to me.

or

Question 17

Science makes philosophy redundant or obsolete.

or

Question 18

It is impossible to have a moral obligation to a future generation.

End of questions

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