APIS
ASSOCIATION FOR PHILOSOPHY IN SCHOOLS (WA)

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.

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	9	9	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.

Question 1 **(1 mark)**

Explain what role an inference plays in an argument.

Question 2 **(6 marks)**

(2 marks)

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

The reason why no candidates stood for the position of media officer is that no-one put themselves forward for the position.

(2 marks)

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

Either you have blue eyes or brown eyes. Your eyes are blue, so they are not brown.

(2 marks)

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

If you crash while riding your bicycle you can end up with severe concussion. That's why you should always wear a bicycle helmet.

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Question 3 **(1 mark)**

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

_____

_____

_____

Question 4 **(3 marks)**

In the following argument

(a) number and bracket the separable statements and underline the final conclusion (1 mark)

(b) diagram the argument (2 marks)

Successful advertising always involves an element of fraud. For no advertisements succeed if they tell the whole truth about their products. Not telling the whole truth about a product amounts to concealing the real truth about it. And concealing the real truth about a product when advertising it is really the same as committing fraud.

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Question 5 **(3 marks)**

In the following argument

(a) number and bracket the separable statements and underline the final conclusion (1 mark)

(b) diagram the argument (2 marks)

The majority of the population in modern societies no longer adheres to a mainstream religion. Yet people in modern societies still take holidays supposedly to celebrate religious festivals. It follows that either we should abolish those holidays altogether or we should allow those holidays but only for those who adhere to the religion whose festival is being celebrated.

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Question 6 (3 marks)

In the following argument

(a) number and bracket the separable statements and underline the final conclusion (1 mark)

(b) diagram the argument (2 marks)

If there were a good and perfect God, then there would be no evil in the universe, because such a God would prevent that evil from existing. But evil does exist. It follows that there is no such good and perfect God.

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Question 7 **(5 marks)**

In the following argument:

(a) number and bracket the separable statements and underline the final conclusion (1 mark)

(b) diagram the argument (2 marks)

(c) for each inference evaluate the inferential strength as either:

Weak or Moderate or Strong (1 mark)

(d) justify your evaluation (1 mark)

If expenditure on military preparations continue to increase, then the risk of retaliatory military actions will increase. And if the risk of such retaliation increases, then the chances of catastrophic war will increase. Hence, if expenditure on military preparations increases, the chances of catastrophic war increases.

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Question 8 **(5 marks)**

In the following argument

(a) number and bracket the separable statements and underline the final conclusion (1 mark)

(b) diagram the argument (2 marks)

(c) for each inference evaluate the inferential strength as either:

Weak or Moderate or Strong (1 mark)

(d) justify your evaluation (1 mark)

The economic future of pulp paper mills is not bright, since they rely upon newsprint as their main product and the market for the print newspapers that are the main buyers of newsprint is in strong decline.

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Question 9 **(3 marks)**

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

1. The party can go ahead as planned.
2. Weather bureau forecasts are highly reliable.
3. If it will not rain tomorrow, the party can go ahead as planned.
4. It will not rain tomorrow.
5. Tomorrow's weather bureau forecast is for fine and warm weather.

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 10 – 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

Mark: I'm not sure what people are complaining about! When they log on to BookFace they enter a social contract of sorts. They know there are rules that govern this digital society, and they can log out if they don't like them!

Nancy: I'm not sure how much choice the people really have though. I mean, how much do they know about algorithms and big data and privacy settings? Surely to have an informed choice, users of BookFace need a good understanding of how these things work?

Mark: They do need an understanding and we explain it all to them! The rules and policies are right there. The digital society is a good society: it encourages freedom of expression and transparency and friendship!

Nancy: I'm not sure if the digital society is as transparent as you say, Mark. You are assuming that people will read those policies and understand them. I think the company and the creator of BookFace, and the computer programmer who writes the algorithms, have a responsibility to create an ethical digital society.

Mark: BookFace is a for-profit corporation! It doesn't need to worry about creating an ethical digital society, all it needs to do is obey the law and make some money!

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Section Two: Philosophical Analysis (continued)

Question 11 – 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

Since the allegations of sexual abuse by Hollywood movie mogul Harvey Weinstein surfaced in October of 2017 more than 100 high-profile men across industries have faced claims ranging from sexual harassment to rape. Those representing the women in these cases point out that bringing the men to trial has been difficult because the women don't have the finances to pursue prolonged legal action. The #metoo movement has been important in creating a place where women's voices can be heard. While in many cases the guilty may never see trial, the social backlash has destroyed their careers. This shows that failure to conform to social norms and expectations will result in marginalization and therefore, being a member of society has significant moral requirements.

Passage Two

The common person is ruled by the senses, rather than logic. The people are not going to choose what is best for society as a whole, they will only be interested in what is best for themselves in the short term. Libertarianism only creates chaos and gives rise to circumstances that are open to exploitation. As a result of this, while people are free to choose, this ultimately debases society and results in tyranny. It is only a matter of time before a powerful tyrant will see the opportunity to create order and ultimately enslave everyone. The only safeguard is a political structure that ensures that the community as a whole controls the means of production. Socialism is therefore a safeguard against the tyranny of democracy.

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Passage Three

The scientific method is said to be one of the crowning achievements of the enlightenment. However, there seems to be issues with the processes it uses to derive knowledge. Firstly, there is no way of making theory-independent observations of the world. What is meant by this is that our observations are necessarily influenced by a theory (however simple) regarding how the world is or what exists in the world. Secondly, when a scientist goes out into the world to test their hypotheses the tests themselves are artificial. For instance, if a biologist investigates the eating habits of a rare marsupial they put themselves and their testing equipment (e.g. cameras and traps) into the natural environment and change that environment while testing it. Lastly, when scientists are analyzing the data from their tests they can manipulate the data to 'reveal' significant relationships between variables merely to help publish their results in a notable journal. This is only about ensuring their own job security and is not about deriving knowledge. So, it seems that while the scientific method has produced a stunning array of knowledge we should hesitate to claim that its method is infallible and the direct path to objective truth.

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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 12

To understand the world, we should put aside our assumptions and let experience be our guide.

or

Question 13

The natural environment is intrinsically valuable.

or

Question 14

One culture should not attempt to tell another culture what is morally right or wrong.

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or

Question 15

A good society looks after the common good.

or

Question 16

Science can explain human nature.

End of questions

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