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.

Section One: Reasoning and Inquiry Skills **30 Marks**

Attempt all questions in this section.

Suggested working time for this section is 50 minutes.

Question 1 **(1 mark)**

(a) Give an example of a weasel word or phrase. Explain why the example is a weasel word or phrase.

Question 2 **(6 marks)**

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

The main reason the gun debate will never end in America is that the anti-gun advocates won't stop until they have seized and destroyed every firearm in the country.

(2 marks)

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

When it comes to sun protection you either use SPF50 sunscreen or you want to burn.

(2 marks)

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

Tiger King was the most popular tv show this year and it will be a travesty if it doesn't win the award.

(2 marks)

Question 3 **(1 mark)**

Is the following statement true or false?

An inference is never a premise.

Question 4 **(1 mark)**

Is the following statement true or false?

Proving that an argument is invalid proves that the argument's conclusion is false.

Question 5 **(5 marks)**

In the following argument

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

(b) diagram the argument (4 marks)

Today's working class will never lead the Revolution, because today's workers have become obsessed with the consumer goods generated by contemporary capitalism. Consequently, either some other social group will have to lead the Revolution, or there will be no Revolution. But the Revolution is inevitable. So some group other than the working class will lead the revolution.

Question 6 **(5 marks)**

In the following argument

a) number and bracket the separable statements and underline the final conclusion (1 mk)
b) diagram the argument (4 marks)

Nothing that is not made up of sub-atomic particles exists. Therefore, either a thing is made up of sub-atomic particles or it does not exist. However, leprechauns are not made up of sub-atomic particles. This is conclusive proof that leprechauns do not exist. It follows that stories about leprechauns must be fictions or legends.

Question 7 **(4 marks)**

In the following argument

(a) number and bracket the separable statements and underline the final conclusion (1 mk)
(b) diagram the argument (3 marks)

Intelligence requires language. There are two sorts of evidence supporting this claim. One is that only creatures with language can perform logical operations and the ability to perform logical operations is an essential part of intelligence. The other is that we see from animal research that animals without language cannot make plans for the future and being able to plan for the future is part of being intelligent.

Question 8 **(5 marks)**

In the following argument

(a) number and bracket the argument (1 mark)
(b) diagram the argument (2 marks)
(c) for each inference what evaluation best describes the inferential strength?
Weak or Moderate or Strong (1 mark)
(d) justify your evaluation (1 mark)

The sun will rise tomorrow. We know this is because we know of no day in which the sun has not risen and we know of a vast number of days in which the sun has risen.

Question 9 **(2 marks)**

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

1. Taking a train from Perth to Adelaide is slow
2. The only fast way to get from Perth to Adelaide is to take a plane.
3. Walking from Perth to Adelaide is very slow
4. You can get from Perth to Adelaide by car, plane, train or walking
5. Driving from Perth to Adelaide is slow
6. Taking a plane from Perth to Adelaide takes only a few hours

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 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

Robyn – I've just got back from watching *La Opera* at the Perth Concert Hall – It was so good. You HAVE to see it!

Julia – I can't afford to go to the opera! It's hard enough meeting the basic needs for my family. There is something wrong in society when some people are affluent while others can barely get by. A good society should value the development of all of its members and meet all of their needs by fair distribution– not just those of a privileged few.

Robyn – Our society does not work like that. I think our society is a good society as everyone can freely choose what they want to do with their money. You can either choose to spend your money on a family or choose to spend it on things like the arts – I chose not to have a family and so I have money to spend on going to the opera. I earned my money legitimately so I can do what I choose with it.

Julia – I think it would be a better and happier society if the government made things like the opera and the other arts a 'public good' and available to everyone, so we could all enjoy them. That would make society a happy place as that is what most people would want. Therefore, a good society is a happy society. The government should own the opera and produce free concerts in King's Park, just like they should own the Post Office and the banks.

Robyn – That approach just encourages free riders – people who do nothing to contribute to society and get good things for free. That is not a good society at all!

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: Scepticism

Philosophy is the pursuit of knowledge. However, succumbing to the hollow claims of scepticism would make knowledge unobtainable and hence its pursuit would be utterly pointless. How then can society advance, or new ideas emerge, when the love of knowledge is dead? This alone would be reason enough to reject skepticism, but not only is scepticism threatening to society, it is also completely nonsensical! Scepticism claims that we can't know anything. Yet, according to the previous statement, the sceptic seems to know at least one thing, ironically, 'that we can't know anything.' The statement shoots itself in the foot. If it is true, it is false. Even a child can see that such self-refuting claims and it follows scepticism ought to be rejected outright.

Passage Two: Social Responsibility

Everyone should be required to perform at least two years of military service. This is because everyone who lives in society is obligated to improve that society. Improving the society in which you live usually improves your personal circumstances, so it's in your own best interest. If your society was usurped by a harsher and less just society, then your circumstances would almost definitely be worse (and so would the circumstances of the people you care about). In order to protect your society, you would need to be trained and prepared. If a society wants its citizens to be trained, then they should be required to enlist in the military.

Passage Three: Obligations to the non-human world

Rights, such as the right to life, are given to humans because humans can reason. If we gave rights to things that lacked the capacity to reason, we'd have to give rights to things like trees and rocks. However, animals don't have the same capacity for reason that humans do. For example, if we gave a Rubik's cube or a basic mathematical problem to a donkey, I'm sure they wouldn't be able to solve either. Therefore, animals don't deserve the same rights we give to humans. It follows that they don't deserve any rights at all.

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.

Question 12

The environment is only valuable in what it adds to human lives.

Question 13

A social contract is the only way to ensure social conformity.

Question 14

Tolerance is essential to liberal democracy.

Question 15

Science cannot tell us everything about the world.

Question 16

In ethical decision-making, intentions are not as important as consequences.