APIS
ASSOCIATION FOR PHILOSOPHY IN SCHOOLS (WA)

Examination paper

PHILOSOPHY AND ETHICS - UNIT 3/4

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 **(2 marks)**

Are the following statements analytic or synthetic?

a) There is no afterlife.

_____

b) Nothing can be both red and not red at the same time.

_____

Question 2 **(3 marks)**

In the following argument:

a) Number and bracket each statement in order of appearance (1 mark)
b) Diagram the argument (2 marks)

The current coronavirus pandemic will not be ended until a vaccine is found for the virus. Many laboratories around the world are searching for such a vaccine and a vast amount of research funding is supporting these laboratories. We can conclude, then, that a vaccine will be found. And so we can also be sure that the pandemic will come to an end.

Question 3 **(5 marks)**

For the following argument:

a) Bracket and number all the statements that make up the argument (1 mark)
b) Circle the inference indicator(s) (1 mark)
c) Diagram the argument (3 marks)

Even today most people on earth believe in some form of life after death. In Asia the dominant religions are Buddhism and Hinduism, and both affirm the idea of reincarnation much of the rest of the world the dominant religions are Christianity, Islam and Judaism, and all three affirm the idea of an individual afterlife. Both reincarnation and individual afterlife are denials that death is the end of life. This shows that it is a mistake to think that death is the end of life.

Question 4 **(2 marks)**

For the following argument:

a) evaluate the strength of the inference to the final conclusion (deductively valid or strong or moderate or weak)
b) justify your evaluation

My father only had sons and his father only had sons. Clearly the male line runs strongly in my family so my first child will be a son.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Question 5 **(2 marks)**

For the following argument:

a) evaluate the strength of the inference (deductively valid or strong or moderate or weak)
b) justify your evaluation.

President Trump is a Republican, and the Republican nominee will win the next Presidential election. Therefore, President Trump will be the next President.

_____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Question 6 **(5 marks)**

For the following argument:

a) circle the word that best describes the strength of the inference
b) circle the word that best describes the cogency of the argument
c) justify your evaluation of the cogency of the argument.

If we did have a proven vaccine for coronavirus it would be made available rapidly around the word, and if that were so, the pandemic would soon be over. Luckily, we do have such a vaccine. So the pandemic will soon be over.

a) WEAK MODERATE STRONG DEDUCTIVELY VALID

b) LACKS COGENCY COGENT

c) _____
_____
_____
_____
_____

Question 7 **(4 marks)**

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

a) Swimming is just slightly controlled drowning. Drowning is an undesirable activity. It makes sense then that swimming is an undesirable activity.

b) All actions either bring about pleasure or pain. Everything either brings pleasure and is good or brings pain and is bad.

Question 8 **(3 marks)**

(a) Express the following sentence as a conditional (If X then Y) statement.

The only way to make aluminium is to mine for bauxite.

(b) Are the following two sentences logically equivalent? Answer YES or NO

If you study hard you will do well in your exams.
If you do well in your exams you did study hard.

(c) Are the following two sentences logically equivalent? Answer YES or NO.

The absence of brain activity in any animal is a sufficient condition of death.

If an animal's brain is no longer active then it is dead.

_____

_____

_____

_____

Question 9 **(3 marks)**

Construct a deductively-valid argument that uses **all** the following statements only **once**. Use a diagram to represent the argument you construct.

1) All sisters are female
2) Stevie is female
3) Sophie is female
4) Sophie is a girl
5) All girls are female
6) Stevie is Sophie's sister

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

Rachael – You'll never guess what happened to me last night – I had a really strange experience. I think I might have seen an angel or something. Now look - I know what you're going to say. You won't believe me.. you'll say I've just imagined it – but I really did experience something out of the ordinary that I think had to be an angel.

Dave – You're right. I don't believe you. No - actually that's not true. I do believe that you experienced something.. but I don't believe that it was an angel I think that you're mistaken about that. People have cases of mistaken identity all the time – for example I thought I saw Kylie at my local supermarket last week! But run me through it.. tell me what you experienced.

Rachael – Well.. its difficult to put into words. I was trying to write my Chem report.. I was sitting at my desk and I fell into a sort of trance. Next thing I know I'm hearing this voice from beyond telling me that I don't need to worry any more; telling me that my ATAR will be all OK and that I'll get the grades I need. It was somehow very comforting. And you know what? I'm not worried any more at all! I heard the voice of an angel – and then I breezed through my Chem report! I'm sure the rest of Year 12 will be just fine too as I've learnt that I shouldn't worry about small things like exams.

Dave – OK – here's the obvious question. How do you know that it was an angel? You said yourself that you heard a voice from beyond.. and as you admitted, could that have been your imagination? Or it could have been your conscience speaking to you? There are a whole bunch of other explanations. I'm sure that science can easily explain your experience without any need for anything supernatural such as angels.

Rachael – I know what it seems like. It was late at night.. I was in my room with just my study lamp on and I had very little sleep the night before. But I know what I heard. It was an angel. It reminded me of what I heard the Priest guy saying at my sister's wedding last year – that angels come to those in need. This was me! I was clearly in need – so an angel came to me. There is no other explanation. It just had to be an angel.

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 1:

It's difficult to see why everyone harps on about the value of the social contract. Most people can see that the social contract is just a way of reinforcing the status quo. This is because entering into a social contract requires one to make sacrifices and socially conform, even if this conformity is detrimental to them. This conformity means individuals are losing their individuality in order to meet the standards of society. This means that the same social standards and values are replicated whenever new citizens adhere to the social contract. These new citizens are then indoctrinated into these values before replicating and reinforcing them themselves. Worse still, people don't get a choice about it. In order to gain the benefits of a society someone must enter into a social contract and this is not always something they consent to; most people are born into a certain society and can't choose to leave it.

Passage 2:

Most people would agree that living authentically in life is more important than having someone else's hopes and dreams thrust upon on you. However, the pursuit of authenticity faces some issues. Firstly, self-obsession is a modern epidemic caused by an increase of introspection as we desperately try and look within to find our 'authentic' selves. It also leads to increased levels of anxiety as individuals are never sure if they are pursuing their own goals or the dreams of others. It is also problematic because our genetics place serious limitations on our freedom and our ability to choose our destiny is largely carved out for us before we are born. It is also difficult to resolve disagreement between two individuals pursuing authenticity that conflict; perhaps I want to help the poor where another person might want to get rich by oppressing them. How do we resolve such conflict? Also, there is something strangely circular about pursuing authenticity after someone has told me to pursue authenticity. These problems demonstrate that living authentically faces as many issues as living inauthentically.

Passage 3:

Relativism is pointless as an ethical theory. Relativism is the belief that the immorality or morality of an action depends on the context of that action. This means that what is morally right one minute might be morally wrong the next. If the point of an ethical theory is to give people moral rules to live by then relativism fails utterly. How are people supposed to create moral rules when the answer to any given question could change subjectively in every situation. Good rules require the ability to predict the outcomes of actions. They should also be easy to follow and clear, not to mention they should apply in as many situations as possible. You simply can’t make reliable rules based on situational morality. And if you can’t make rules based on an ethical theory then it doesn’t function as an ethical theory.

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

Moral standards, values and rules are right for one culture but not another.

Question 13

Darwin's theory of evolution is incompatible with religion.

Question 14

Humans have no obligations to non-human things.

Question 15

Life has no meaning unless there is an afterlife.

Question 16

A good society is based on liberal ideals.

End of Paper