



Victorian Certificate of Education 2004

PHILOSOPHY

Written examination

Monday 15 November 2004

Reading time: 11.45 am to 12.00 noon (15 minutes)

Writing time: 12.00 noon to 2.00 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION BOOK

Structure of book

<i>Section</i>	<i>Number of questions</i>	<i>Number of questions to be answered</i>	<i>Number of marks</i>	<i>Suggested times (minutes)</i>
A	5	5	25	25
B	5	3	45	55
C	3	1	30	40
			Total 100	120

- Students are permitted to bring into the examination room: pens, pencils, highlighters, erasers, sharpeners and rulers.
- Students are NOT permitted to bring into the examination room: blank sheets of paper and/or white out liquid/tape.
- No calculator is allowed in this examination.

Materials supplied

- Question book of 6 pages, including **Assessment criteria**.
- One or more script books.

Instructions

- Write your **student number** in the space provided on the front page of the script book(s).
- All written responses must be in English.

At the end of the examination

- Place all other used script books inside the front cover of the first script book.
- You may keep this question book.

Students are NOT permitted to bring mobile phones and/or any other electronic communication devices into the examination room.

SECTION A – Short-answer questions**Instructions for Section A**

Answer **all** questions in the script book(s) provided. In some cases a single sentence answer is sufficient for full marks.

Question 1

- a. Epicurus says that pleasure is the end and aim of life, but that this does not mean luxurious pleasure. Give three of his reasons for rejecting luxurious pleasure. 3 marks
- b. Name two different kinds of pleasure which Epicurus does think are valuable. 2 marks

Question 2

- a. According to Martin Luther King, what is the relationship between sinning and freedom? 2 marks
- b. Explain the conflict that King believes exists between God and sinner. 3 marks

Question 3

- a. According to Murdoch, what two things are required of moral philosophy? 2 marks
- b. i. What does Murdoch mean when she states ‘We are still living in the age of Kantian man’?
ii. What is her fundamental criticism of Kant? 3 marks

Question 4

- a. What does Kuhn think was the main problem in Ptolemaic astronomy which led to its replacement by Copernicanism? 2 marks
- b. How does Kuhn see his idea of scientific progress as controversially resembling Darwin’s conception of biological evolution? 3 marks

Question 5

- a. One way to test a theory is to look for observations or events that can be explained by that theory. Outline the problem that Popper believed could arise with this kind of test and give one example. 2 marks
- b. State two circumstances under which, according to Popper, confirming evidence can count. Use an example to illustrate your answer. 3 marks

Total 25 marks

The following assessment criteria apply to Section A:

Criterion 1 *knowledge of the key elements and historical and philosophical context of the text*

Criterion 5 *understanding of the relationship between concepts of body and mind and the nature of knowledge*

END OF SECTION A

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SECTION B – Extended text response short-answer questions

Instructions for Section B

Answer **three** questions in the script book(s) provided.

In this section you are required to display more detail and depth of understanding than in Section A, but a full essay response to any question is not expected. For example, while a conclusion may be appropriate depending on the question, an introduction is not necessary.

Question 1

‘No, Socrates, if you want to hear the truth . . . if a person has the means to live a life of sensual, self indulgent freedom, there’s no better or happier state of existence.’

Plato, *Gorgias*, 492c

- a.
 - i. Outline two objections raised by Socrates against this view of Callicles.
 - ii. Evaluate one of these objections.

4 + 6 = 10 marks

- b. Does Callicles give us a useful guide to the good life today? Justify your position.

5 marks

Question 2

‘The life according to intellect is best and pleasantest.’

Aristotle, *Nicomachean Ethics*, Book X, 1178a

- a. Explain what Aristotle means by a ‘life according to intellect’.
- b.
 - i. Outline three of the arguments that Aristotle uses to justify his position.
 - ii. Evaluate two of these arguments.

2 marks

6 + 7 = 13 marks

Question 3

‘We know it well, the world in which we live is ungodly, immoral, “inhuman”; we have interpreted it far too long in a false and mendacious way, in accordance with the wishes of our reverence, which is to say, according to our *needs*. For man is a reverent animal. But he is also mistrustful; and that the world is *not* worth what we thought it was, that is about as certain as anything of which our mistrust has finally got hold. The more mistrust, the more philosophy.’

Nietzsche, ‘The Joyful Wisdom’ in *The Gay Science*, Section 346

- a. What does Nietzsche mean by ‘The more mistrust, the more philosophy’?
4 marks
- b.
 - i. Explain and evaluate Nietzsche’s view of the world.
 - ii. How would King respond to this view?
6 marks
- c. Morality is a ‘problem’ for Nietzsche.
 - i. Why does he think this?
 - ii. What implications do Nietzsche’s views on morality have for a good life?
5 marks

Question 4

- a. Sartre says that there is no ‘fixed and given’ human nature.
 - i. Outline the argument he gives for this claim.
 - ii. Is the argument sound? Give reasons for your answer.
5 marks
- b.
 - i. From the above claim about human nature, what does Sartre infer about determinism?
 - ii. Is his inference sound? Give reasons for your answer.
5 marks
- c. Sartre says ‘I am responsible for myself and everyone else’.
 - i. How does he justify this claim?
 - ii. Evaluate his analogy between a person’s choice to marry and the responsibility of the military officer.
5 marks

Question 5

‘An intellectual discipline can play the same kind of role as that which I have attributed to art.’

Murdoch, *The Sovereignty of Good Over Other Concepts*

- a. What role is this and, in her view, what is its importance?
5 marks
 - b. Explain and evaluate Murdoch’s concept of the Good.
5 marks
 - c.
 - i. What is the function of religion according to Murdoch?
 - ii. Critically compare her view on this with the view of Nietzsche.
 5 marks
- Total 45 marks

The following assessment criteria apply to Section B:

- Criterion 2** *analysis of the central arguments about the good life as developed in the texts*
- Criterion 3** *evaluation of the central arguments about the good life as developed in the texts*
- Criterion 4** *analysis of the relationship of the arguments in the texts to each other, to other traditions of thinking and to contemporary conceptions of the good life*
- Criterion 8** *use of evidence and reasoning to develop arguments and support conclusions*

SECTION C – Essay**Instructions for Section C**

Answer **one** question in the script book(s) provided.

Question 1

Examine and evaluate

- a. the view of one prescribed philosopher on the relationship between knowledge and mind and
- b. the impact of this view on one or two contemporary issues.

OR

Question 2

Outline and critically evaluate one argument that Descartes uses to distinguish humans from animals. What are its implications, if any, for the treatment of animals?

OR

Question 3

Critically evaluate the view of either Popper or Kuhn on the nature of science. What do you think are the implications of this view for the possibility of scientific knowledge?

Total 30 marks

The following assessment criteria apply to Section C:

- Criterion 6** *analysis of arguments about mind, body, knowledge and belief*
- Criterion 7** *evaluation of arguments about mind, body, knowledge and belief*
- Criterion 8** *use of evidence and reasoning to develop arguments and support conclusions*

END OF QUESTION BOOK