



Victorian Certificate of Education

2007

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

Letter

Figures

Words

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PHILOSOPHY

Written examination

Monday 19 November 2007

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

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

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

Section	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Number of marks
A	5	5	25
B	5	3	45
C	3	1	30
			Total 100

- 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 and answer book of 18 pages, including **Assessment criteria**.

Instructions

- Write your **student number** in the space provided above on this page.
- All written responses must be in English.

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

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

Answer **all** questions in the spaces provided. In some cases a single sentence answer may be sufficient.

Question 1

- a. i. Briefly outline Socrates' image of the two sets of jars (*Gorgias*).

- ii. What point does Socrates make using the image of the jars?

1 + 2 = 3 marks

- b. Give **two** examples used by Socrates to show that 'the pleasant and the good are different'.

2 marks

Question 2

- a. Why, according to Nietzsche, does the European 'disguise himself with morality'?

2 marks

- b. Name **three** of the 'props' or 'supports' which Nietzsche says many people need due to their 'instinct of weakness'.

3 marks

Question 3

- a. For Plato, what is **one** of the differences between the 'sightseer' and the philosopher (*Republic*)?

2 marks

- b. In Plato's simile of the sun, which **three** features correspond respectively to which three features of human knowledge?

3 marks

Question 4

- a. i. Turing was dissatisfied with the question 'Can machines think?'. Why?

- ii. What question did he suggest instead?

1 + 1 = 2 marks

- b. i. What is the 'Argument from Consciousness' considered by Turing?

- ii. How does Turing respond to the Argument from Consciousness?

1 + 2 = 3 marks

Question 5

- a. According to Armstrong, what is consciousness?

2 marks

- b. How does Armstrong's understanding of consciousness relate to his overall view of the nature of a person?

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*

Instructions for Section B

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

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- c. i. For what **two** reasons does Aristotle think that, simply as human beings, we must have a function?

- ii. Evaluate these two reasons.

2 + 4 = 6 marks

Question 2

- a. How is Epicurus's attitude to death connected to his hedonism?

4 marks

- b. Would Epicurus agree more with Callicles or with Socrates about the role of pleasure in the good life? Explain your answer.

5 marks

c. Critically evaluate Epicurus's hedonism.

6 marks

Question 3

- a. Give a brief account of Nietzsche's concept of the 'will to truth'.

3 marks

- b. i. To where does Nietzsche think we are led by the 'will to truth'?

- ii. What is the alternative?

3 + 3 = 6 marks

- c. Outline and critically evaluate Nietzsche's reflections on morality, as expressed in the prescribed text.

6 marks

Question 4

a. Sartre seems to express two different attitudes to the nonexistence of God.

i. What are these two attitudes?

ii. What is the basis of each of them respectively?

2 + 4 = 6 marks

b. i. What claim does Sartre illustrate with his example of choosing to marry?

ii. Critically evaluate this claim.

2 + 3 = 5 marks

- c. i. What claim does Sartre illustrate with his example of the military officer?

- ii. Critically evaluate this claim.

2 + 2 = 4 marks

Question 5

- a. i. Murdoch rejects a type of moral philosophy which, following Kant, centres on ‘the notion of the will as the creator of value’. What does she find objectionable in this philosophy?

- ii. In Murdoch’s view, what is the creator of value?

2 + 3 = 5 marks

- b. i. Give **two** of Murdoch’s examples of moral problems.

- ii. How would Murdoch wish us to approach and resolve such problems?

2 + 3 = 5 marks

- c. Critically evaluate Murdoch's view of morality and moral problems, with some reference to the ideas of Martin Luther King.

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 space provided.

Question 1

Outline and critically compare the views of Plato, Popper and Kuhn with respect to the nature and discovery of knowledge.

OR

Question 2

Outline and critically compare the views of Descartes, Turing and Armstrong with respect to the possibility of thinking machines.

OR

Question 3

Outline and critically examine the views of any **three** of Plato, Descartes, Turing and Armstrong on the nature of the human mind.

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*

Question 1, 2 or 3

SECTION C – continued
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