



Victorian Certificate of Education

2009

SUPERVISOR TO ATTACH PROCESSING LABEL HERE

STUDENT NUMBER

Letter

Figures

Words

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PHILOSOPHY

Written examination

Monday 16 November 2009

Reading time: 3.00 pm to 3.15 pm (15 minutes)

Writing time: 3.15 pm to 5.15 pm (2 hours)

QUESTION AND ANSWER BOOK

Structure of book

Section	Number of questions	Number of questions to be answered	Number of marks
A	4	4	15
B	3	3	15
C	4	4	15
D	3	1	15
			Total 60

- 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 11 pages.

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**Instructions for Section A**

Answer **all** four questions.

Question 1

How useful is Aristotle's Mean for helping us to live a virtuous life? Justify your response.

3 marks

Question 2

Callicles claims that we only have to look at nature to find evidence that it is **right** for better people to have a greater share than worse people, and for more capable people to have more than less capable people.

Critically evaluate this claim, with some reference to Socrates' response.

4 marks

Question 3

Is happiness the purpose of morality? Discuss with reference to **one** of the following: Callicles, Socrates, Aristotle, Nietzsche, Murdoch.

4 marks

Question 4

Murdoch says her argument (about the Good) rests on two basic assumptions. Identify and critically evaluate **one** of these assumptions.

4 marks

Total 15 marks

Question 2

Note: The philosophers discussed in Question 2 must differ from those discussed in Question 1.

Outline your own view of the nature of the good life. Include some reference to at least **one** of the following: Callicles, Socrates, Aristotle, Nietzsche, Murdoch.

5 marks

Question 3

To what extent is a person's conception of the good life merely a product of the tastes and preferences of his or her society or culture? Give reasons for your response.

4 marks

Total 15 marks

SECTION C**Instructions for Section C**

Answer **all** four questions.

Question 1

Plato holds that the state should be ruled by philosophers because of the knowledge they have. Outline and critically evaluate his case for this view.

5 marks

Question 2

Explain the difference, according to Popper, between science and 'pseudo-science'.
Refer to at least **one** of his examples of pseudo-science.

3 marks

Question 3

Briefly describe Kuhn's theory of crisis, using **one** of his examples.

3 marks

Question 4

How strong, in your view, is the relationship between science and knowledge? Justify your response.

4 marks

Total 15 marks

Instructions for Section D

Write an essay on **one** of the following topics.

Question 1

Descartes begins his *Second Meditation* in a 'deep whirlpool' in which there seems to be no certainty. By the end of it, however, he has reached some positive conclusions about himself.

Outline, and critically evaluate, his arguments for at least **two** of these conclusions.

OR

Question 2

Armstrong believes that a person is ‘nothing but a physico-chemical mechanism’.

Outline and evaluate his arguments for this view, and for the particular version of it which he favours.

Include in your essay a discussion of at least **one** of the following.

- i. how Armstrong addresses the problem of consciousness
- ii. the implications of his position for today's debates

OR

Question 3

Outline and critically evaluate the materialist (also known as the physicalist) view of the mind. Include in your essay some discussion of Armstrong's case for materialism and Descartes' case against it.

Total 15 marks



Question 1, 2 or 3

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SECTION D – continued
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